Ann Arbor Observer

December 2001

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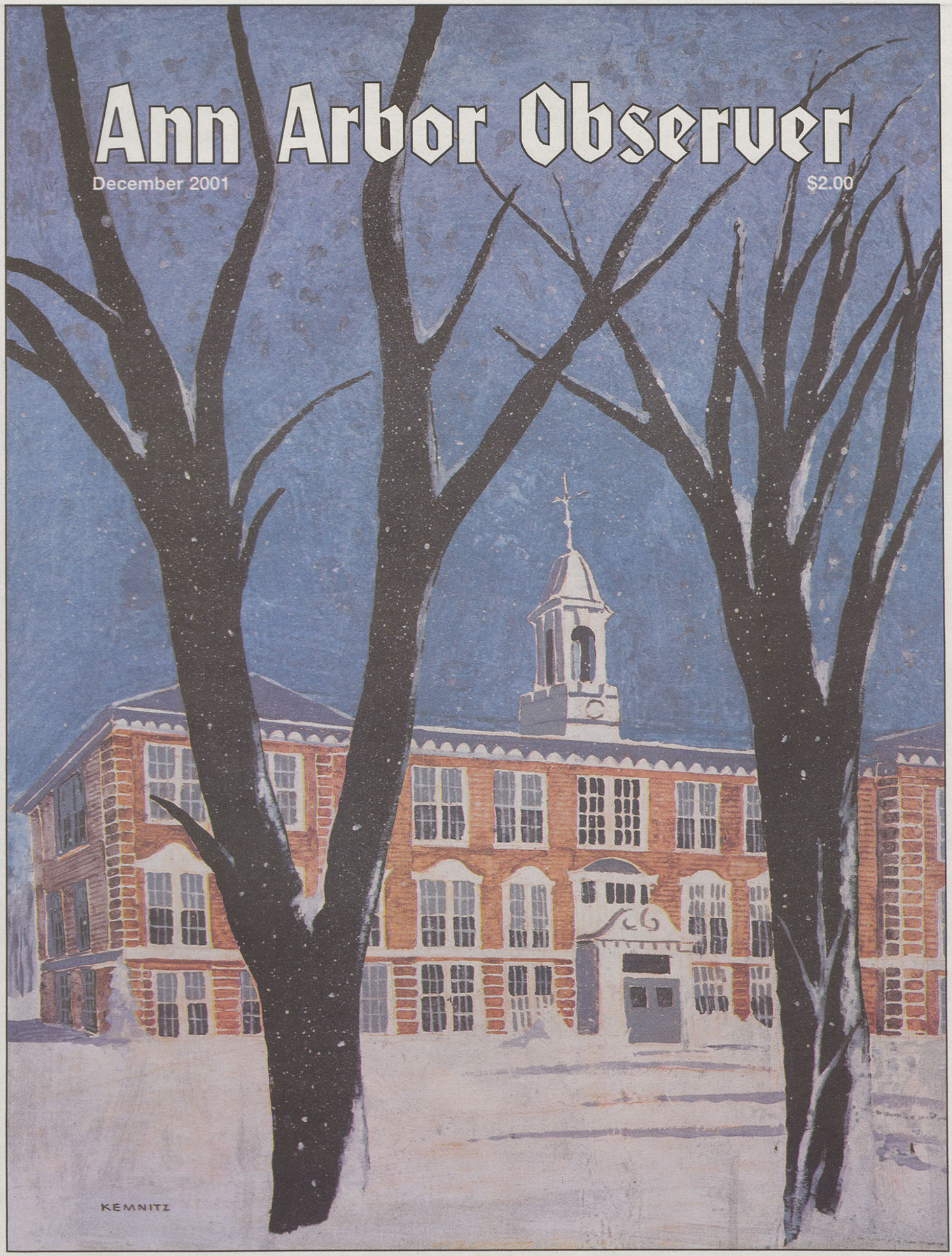

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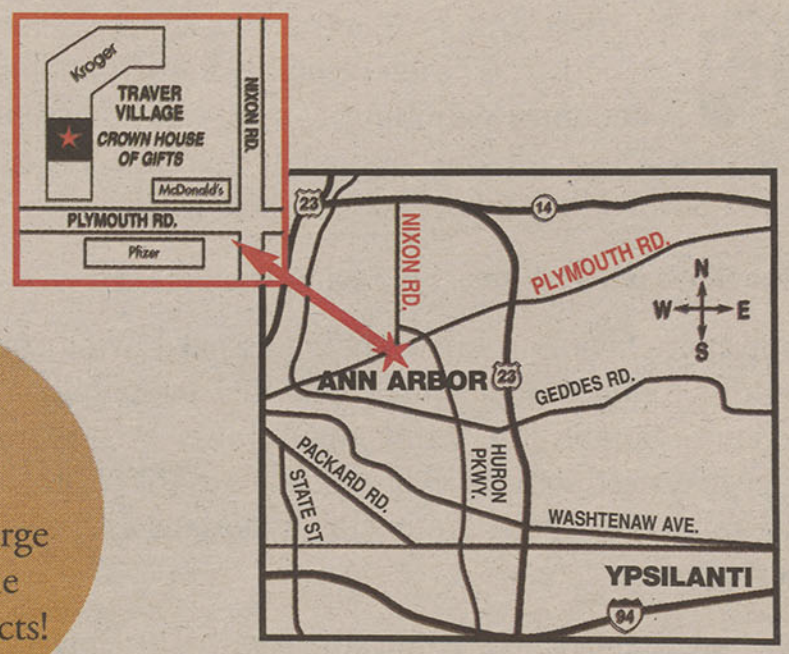

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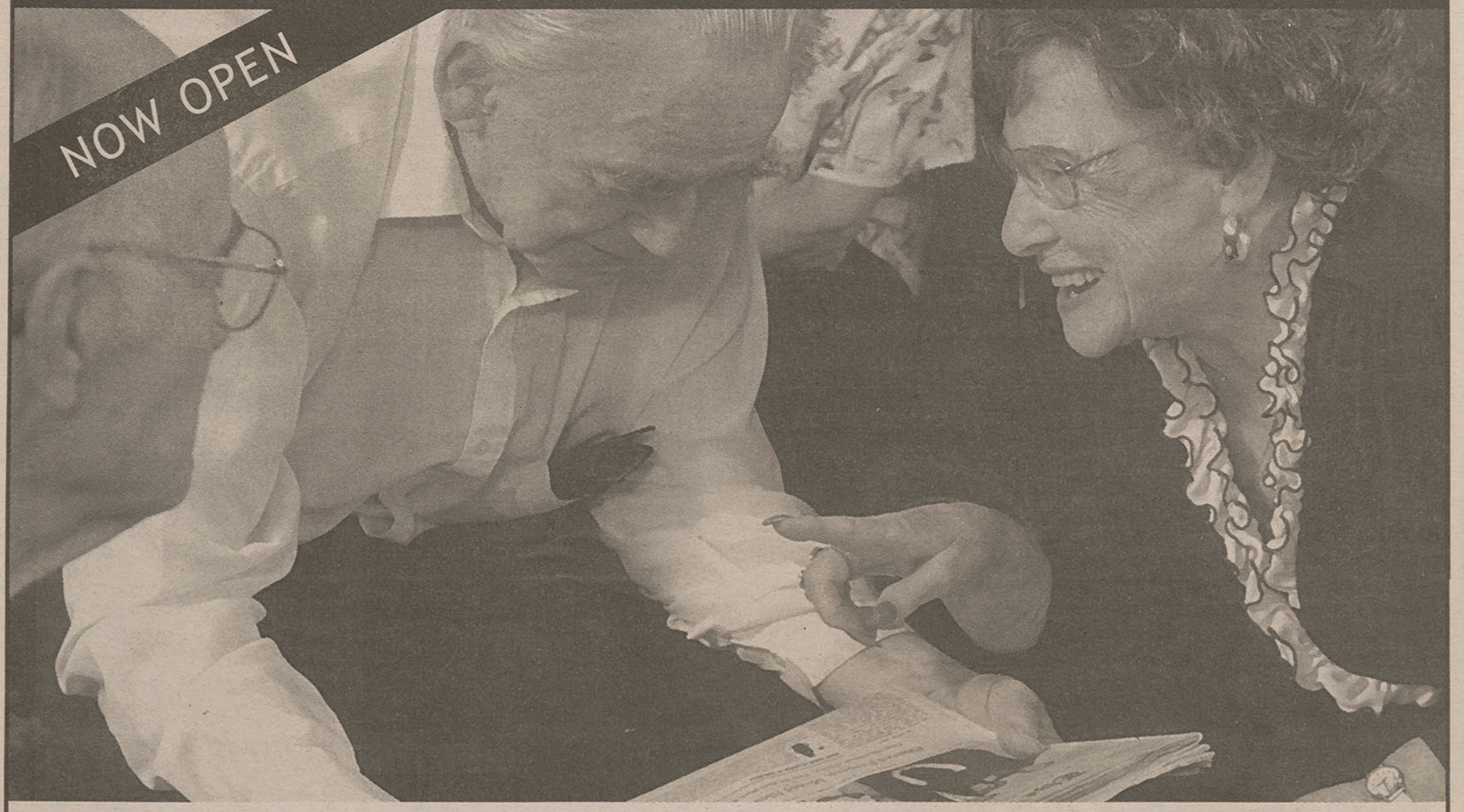

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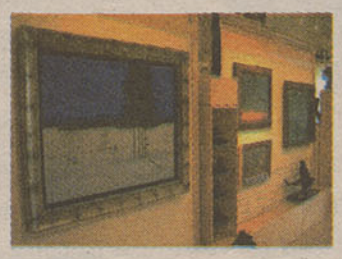

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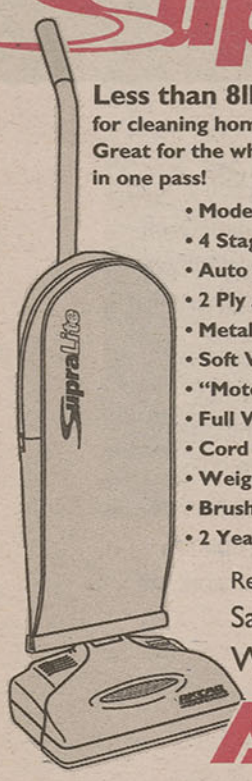

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Ann Arbor Observer

25th ANNIVERSARY
Ann Arbor Observer
1976 ◆ 2001

December 2001 vol. 26 • no. 4

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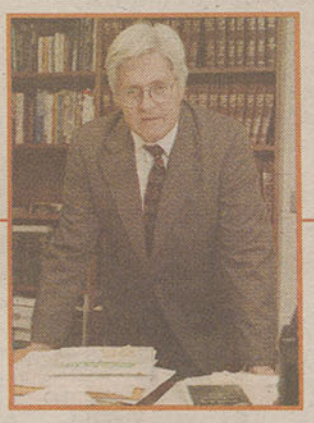

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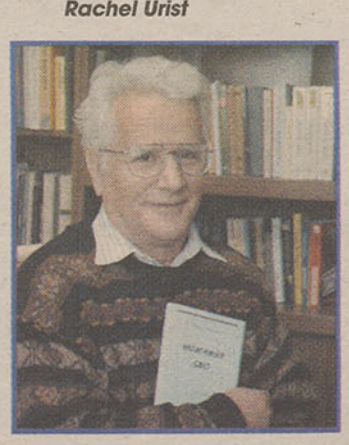

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UPFRONT

Lowenstein's loss: The controversy over accessory apartments claimed its first victim in November with the ouster of Second Ward councilwoman Joan Lowenstein.

A Democrat appointed by city council to represent a Republican ward, Lowenstein was the only incumbent the GOP targeted in last month's election. Even so, Republican Mike Reid beat her by a mere forty-four votes. Lowenstein ran far ahead of the last Democrat to campaign in the ward, Parma Yarkin, who went down by an overwhelming 465-vote margin in 1999.

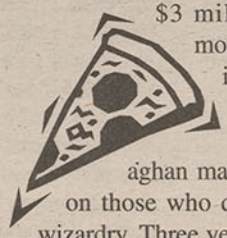
Lowenstein picked up a handful of votes in the ward's student-dominated Democratic precincts, but her most impressive showing was among the ward's Republican voters. In five precincts that normally support the GOP, she ran an average of 12.5 percent ahead of Yarkin—enough to win three of the five outright. If she'd been able to maintain that margin in a sixth GOP precinct, 2-9, she'd have carried it, too—and narrowly won the election.

But 2-9, centered on Thurston School north of Plymouth, threw the election to Reid. Lowenstein improved on Yarkin's showing there by a mere 4 percent, just one-third of her gain in the ward's other Republican areas. Why did she do so badly in that one neighborhood? Joe Upton, the Second Ward's other council rep, has a ready answer: "Accessory apartments."

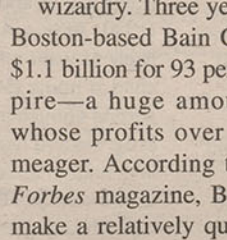
When city planners rolled out proposals that would permit adding rental apartments to single-family homes, the Thurston area quickly emerged as a hotbed of opposition—no doubt because residents there were already up in arms about a problem household on Georgetown Boulevard that's allegedly being used as a rooming house. In a forum at Thurston, Lowenstein said that she opposed the planning staff's original accessory-apartment plan—but she also admitted that she supported the concept, and said she hoped a compromise could be worked out. Reid, on the other hand, made it clear he shared the residents' distaste.

Ironically, although Reid's victory confirmed the proposal's political impact, his presence on city council may not hurt its chances of being passed. As expected, Republican Marcia Higgins easily trounced Green Mike Nowak in the Fourth Ward. But even with Reid joining Higgins and Upton, council still has only three Republicans—and by defeating Lowenstein, the Thurstonites have removed the lone member of the Democratic supermajority who had a political stake in addressing their concerns.

What a deal! During his nearly four decades at the helm of Domino's Pizza, founder Tom Monaghan earned admiration for entrepreneurial gusto—but raised eyebrows with his money-losing investments. He spent tens of millions of dollars on his collections of classic cars and Frank Lloyd Wright artifacts only to sell them at a loss after his enthusiasm waned. He shelled out $28 million building a resort on Drummond Island and sold it for just $3 million. He even lost money buying and selling the Detroit Tigers. But now it appears that Monaghan may have the last laugh on those who doubted his financial wizardry. Three years ago he convinced Boston-based Bain Capital to pay a cool $1.1 billion for 93 percent of his pizza empire—a huge amount for a company whose profits over the years had been meager. According to a recent article in *Forbes* magazine, Bain figured it "could make a relatively quick, handsome profit by turning around Domino's" and reselling the company. The magazine predicts that "in the next year or so, Bain will be eyeing an exit, most likely through an initial public offering." The only problem: by *Forbes*'s calculation, Domino's still earns so little that a stock offering today might fetch only $300 million—less than a third of what Bain paid Monaghan three years ago. The self-made pizza magnate couldn't refund Bain's money even if he wanted to: he's already poured much of his windfall into the Ave Maria Foundation, which supports a vast assortment of conservative Catholic institutions—everything from an anti-ACLU law firm to a law school to a congregation of traditional nuns.



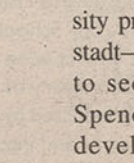
Amazing tunemakers: Two recent news items confirm the U-M School of Music's reputation as the country's top center for serious composers. First came word that professor Bright Sheng had won a $500,000 MacArthur grant. (Sheng's compositions draw from his experiences growing up in China during the Cultural Revolution.) Two weeks later the New York Philharmonic premiered assistant professor Susan Botti's *Echo Tempo,* described by an admiring *New York Times* reviewer as "an expansive setting of American Indian texts in which mythology is interwoven with a sense of the cyclic and symbolic." Former music school dean Paul Boylan considers Botti the finest emerging female composer in the world. Two veteran U-M composers, William Bolcom and Michael Daugherty, already have international reputations. Boylan traces this wealth of composing talent to the arrival in the late 1940s of Ross Lee Finney from Smith College. Finney founded the U-M department of composition and recruited Leslie Bassett, who won a 1966 Pulitzer for his *Variations for Orchestra.* One of Finney's students, Bill Albright, later joined the department and became famous himself for his vernacular music. Albright's presence in turn helped attract Bolcom, who won a 1988 Pulitzer for his *12 New Etudes for Piano.* Daugherty, who came to Michigan in 1991, is currently on a European tour with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra—which is playing one of his compositions at each stop.



What does it cost? **$120**—initial hour-long consultation on matters from romance and finance to career and life purpose (includes, if needed, messages from those on the "other side") by psychic Nanci Rose Gerler . . . **$5.50**—dozen glazed doughnuts, made early Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, at Dimo's Deli & Donuts on West Stadium . . . **$11**—to recharge a five-pound ABC fire extinguisher (most common type found in homes) at Spears Fire and Safety Service in Jackson Plaza . . . **$65**—initial colonic irrigation at Bio Energy Medical Center on Long Shore Drive (follow-up visits, $55) . . . **$80**—face cord of firewood, mostly oak, seasoned one year, delivered by Adams Tree Service . . . **$200**—up to four hours of music by "nostalgia DJ" David Owens (includes sound system and Owens's collection of original recordings of top songs and dance music from the 1920s to the 1950s).

Big new clinic: "It's just like a human hospital, except the patients make loud noises and go to the bathroom on the floor," quips architect Mark Schmidt. Schmidt, who's based in Madison, Wisconsin, designed the gargantuan Ann Arbor Animal Hospital currently going up on Liberty near Stadium. Veterinary hospitals are Schmidt's architectural niche, so he's got lots of experience dealing with "noise and odor" problems. Schmidt estimates that he's designed 400 to 500 animal hospitals in the past three decades and says the monumental 30,000-square-foot facility is one of the biggest he's ever been involved with. Owner Linda Griebe employs five other vets to look after 10,000 pets at the Ann Arbor Animal Hospital; Griebe herself practices at the Ann Arbor Cat Clinic, which she co-owns. Architect Schmidt also designed the cat clinic's handsome new building on Packard a few years back.

Hope for a historic reactor: Because its operation drains over $1 million a year from the university budget, the U-M has started the formal process to decommission its nuclear reactor. But former university president Jim Duderstadt—now a key advisor to secretary of energy Spence Abraham—has developed a plan that may save it. Built in part with funds raised in honor of U-M alumni and staff killed in World War II, the North Campus reactor has been used in physics experiments probing the nature of matter—and helped attract Duderstadt himself to the faculty. "I came here because this is the number-one nuclear engineering program in the country," the ex-president remembers. "A large reason for that is the reactor." But commercial reactor construction ground to a halt in the 1980s, and nuclear engineering enrollments dwindled. With federal funding for nonmilitary nuclear research also at a low ebb, one university after another has shut down its reactor. But now, thanks in part to Duderstadt's efforts as chair of the secretary of energy's Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee, federal funding is finally in the pipe-line to convert a number of university reactors into regional research and training facilities. Duderstadt says that although the U-M's reactor is old, the quality of the reactor staff and measurement equipment gives it a good shot at winning designation as one of those regional centers.



Not so calm: The city's first two neighborhood-originated traffic calming projects, on Traver and on Brooks, have triggered a noisy backlash. After 74 percent of the residents on Brooks signed petitions supporting steps to slow traffic on the street, the city installed "speed humps" that limit vehicles to about twenty-five miles per hour. Now one irate driver has taken to honking angrily as he passes over each of the three-inch-high asphalt loaves, and somebody has also put protest leaflets in neighbors' front doors. It's quite similar to what happened in Boulder, Colorado, whose traffic calming system Ann Arbor officials copied. There, upset motorists created a countermovement called Seconds Count and garnered enough signatures to get a citywide vote on a proposal to abolish all "delay inducing" devices. Boulder halted consideration of traffic calming measures until the election. But 70 percent of the voters came down in favor of traffic calming, and opposition there has since almost disappeared. Next up for Ann Arbor is Rosewood, where more than the required 66 percent of voting residents (and over half of all home owners) have approved speed humps aimed at discouraging cut-through between South Industrial and Packard. Other initiatives in the pipeline would "calm" Georgetown Boulevard, Broadway, and Mixtwood. ■

From the Superintendent

Supportive and satisfied parents and community are the hallmark of a successful school district. Outstanding public schools have learned that attention to how their "customers" or "clients" are treated can be critical. In Ann Arbor Schools we have begun our focus on "Customer Satisfaction." Building on the work begun with community forums to craft the district strategic plan, the Ann Arbor School district has designed and conducted a district wide parent survey. Below is the Executive Summary of the survey. The survey was designed and conducted by the Office of Research Services with revisions and input by parents and community members. District and school level staff will use information from the survey to continue to improve service for our community.

Ann Arbor Public Schools Parent Survey – May 2001 Executive Summary

Surveys were mailed to a stratified random sample of 1,072 district parents. The initial mailing was followed up with two reminder postcards, resulting in the return of 536 surveys—a 50% response rate. This is considerably higher than our typical rates from single mailings, but it still leaves a proportion of parents whose attitudes are unknown. Parents of African American students were under-represented among the respondents, even though they were over sampled in the initial mailing; their response rate was 23%. African American students make up 16% of district enrollment, but only 9% of the respondent group. Parents of high school students were also somewhat underrepresented, making up 31% of the enrollment but only 27% of the respondents. This was particularly the case when the parents had only one child enrolled in the district. Error rates for estimating from this sample to the attitudes of the entire population are in the process of being calculated. 65% of the respondents had more than one child enrolled in Ann Arbor Public Schools. 20% had, sometime in the past, a child enrolled in a private, parochial, or charter school. 63% voted in the last school election (prior to May 2001). 86% attended a parent conference in the past year. 84% visited their child's classroom at least once (69% for high school parents). 24% had other children younger than K-12 school age. 21% had children older than K-12 school age.

General Levels of Satisfaction

The overall level of satisfaction with their child's education was high for all levels and all ethnic groups. 83% reported being satisfied or very satisfied (24% very satisfied). Parents of elementary students reported the highest levels of satisfaction (91%), and, in particular, the highest levels of very satisfied ratings (33%). Midde school parents (30%) were more likely to report being dissatisfied than elementary (9%) and high school (17%) parents.

When asked to "grade" the *school* their child attended, 30% gave the school an A; 48% gave a B; 19% gave a C; 3% gave a D; and 1% gave an E. Thus, 78% of parents graded their school above average (A or B). [In the 2001 national PDK/Gallup poll, 68% of public school parents gave their school an A or B]. 85% of elementary school parents gave their schools an A or B (40% A's). 62% of middle schools parents gave their school an A or B (15% A's). 77% of high school parents gave their school an A or B (23% A's). 30% of middle school parents gave their school a C, compared to 13% of elementary parents and 20% of high school parents.

When asked to grade the *district* as a whole, 13% of parents gave the district an A; 48% gave a B; 27% gave a C; 7% gave a D; and 2% gave an E. Thus, 61% graded the district above average (A or B). [In the national PDK/Gallup poll, 62% of public school parents gave their district an A or B].

Specific Aspects of School

Safety 90% of parents felt their child was safe or very safe at school – 96% of elementary parents; 87% of middle school parents; and 83% of high school parents.

Academic Expectations 59% of parents felt the academic expectations at their school were "just right." 32% felt the expectations were too low. 30% of elementary parents, 45% of middle school parents, and 25% of high school parents felt the expectations were too low.

Focus on Cultural Diversity 64% of parents felt the amount of focus on cultural diversity in their school was just right; 9% felt it was too little; 17% felt it was too much; and 9% did not know.

Class Size Given the information that the district had reduced class sizes in grades K-5 and grades 9 and 10, 69% of parents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with class sizes at their school – 80% of elementary parents, 67% of middle school parents, and 52% of high school parents.

Likes When asked what things they liked best about their child's school, 65% of parents cited teachers; 59% cited the academic program; 35% cited extra-curricular activities; 16% cited opportunities for advanced students; and 13% cited opportunities for students with special needs. High school parents were more likely to cite the academic program (78%) than teachers (57%) as particular likes, while the reverse was true for elementary and middle school parents. High school parents were also more likely to cite opportunities for advanced students (39% for high school vs. 12% for middle school and 6% for elementary). Elementary parents were more likely to cite opportunities for students with special needs (19%, vs. 9% for middle school and 7% for high school).

Dislikes When asked what things they liked least about their child's school, smaller percentages of parents responded. 22% cited opportunities for advanced students, coming primarily from elementary (28%) and middle school (27%) parents. 22% of middle school parents cited the academic program, vs. 12% for elementary and 4% for high school.

Perceptions of the Next Level

When parents with children only at the elementary school level were asked how safe they felt district middle schools were, 44% felt they were safe or very safe; 16% felt they were unsafe or very unsafe; and 41% said they did not know.

28% of elementary parents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the academic expectations/challenges at middle school; 20% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied; and 51% did not know.

When middle school parents were asked similar questions about high school, 45% felt the high schools were safe or very safe; 30% felt they were unsafe or very unsafe; and 26% did not know.

46% of middle school parents were satisfied or very satisfied with the academic expectations/challenges at high school; 22% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied; and 31% did not know.

Getting Information about Schools

When asked where they got most of their information about their child's *school*, the most frequent responses were: their own child (69%); the school newsletter (57%); and letters from school (55%). Elementary parents were more likely than middle or high school parents to cite letters from school as sources of information (66% vs. 44%), while middle and high school parents were more likely than elementary parents to cite their own child as a source (76% vs. 63%).

The most important kinds of *school* information cited by parents were: how their child is doing in school (89%); what is being taught (58%); notification about homework (50%); ways to help their child at home (30%); and information about school events (19%). African American parents were particularly likely to want information about ways to help their child at home (59%). 61% of parents felt they were getting enough information about their child's activities, progress and needs. 76% felt they were getting enough information about programs and activities at their child's school. Elementary parents were most likely to report getting enough information in both cases. When asked where they got most of their information about the *district*, the most frequent responses were: the school newsletter (48%); the district newsletter (29%); their own child (27%); letters from school (24%); and letters from the district (10%).

The most important kinds of *district* information were: what is being taught (72%); district budget and expenditures (44%); district achievement information (40%); new district initiatives (38%); and information about district events (12%). 59% of parents felt they were getting enough information about issues, programs, and activities taking place in the district.

Bonding Issues

Responses about support for possible components of future bond issues were, for the most part, divided between support or "need more information." Typically, fewer than 10% of parents indicated outright opposition. For upgrading and expanding current technology, 55% were in favor, 8% were opposed and 37% needed more information. For K-12 facility improvement, 64% were in favor, 7% were opposed, and 29% needed more information. For reconfiguring space at Huron and Pioneer, 58% were in favor, 9% were opposed, and 33% needed more information. For increasing hallway circulation and common spaces at Huron and Pioneer, 49% were in favor, 9% opposed, and 42% needed more information.

Elementary parents were more likely to favor upgrading technology and K-12 facility improvements, while high school and middle school parents were more likely to favor the changes to high school facilities.

African American and Asian parents were more likely to favor upgrading technology and K-12 facility improvements.

Parents who did not vote in the last election were more likely to favor upgrading technology.

Parents were more likely to support a bond that would renew or maintain the current level of taxes than if it would increase current taxes. 61% would support a renewal, 6% would not support a renewal, and 33% would need more information. 28% would support an increase, 24% would oppose an increase, and 49% would need more information.

For information about the survey please contact Jane Landefeld or Nancy Shiffler, 994-2223.

INSIDE ann arbor

MEDIA

Hatchet Job

The *Ann Arbor News* stoops to new lows in its drive to smear the former city administrator.

It was a familiar, if depressing, tale: once again the city was paying dearly for the greed of a departing employee. A front-page story in the *Ann Arbor News* announced that the city's early retirement program would "cost millions of dollars more than anticipated." Who was to blame for this fiasco? "The program was devised by former city administrator Neal Berlin," the *News* added helpfully, "who was among the first to use it when he retired in August with a $26,000-per-year pension and full medical benefits after working six years for the city."

The paper cited Berlin's pension again in a follow-up story and then drove the attack home in an editorial. Council's failure to ask whether the program would affect Berlin's own retirement was "shameful," the paper charged. The editors suggested that taxpayers would be better off if council members had retired instead. The cost "would be worthwhile if their replacements could comprehend the most basic concepts of stewardship," the paper sneered.

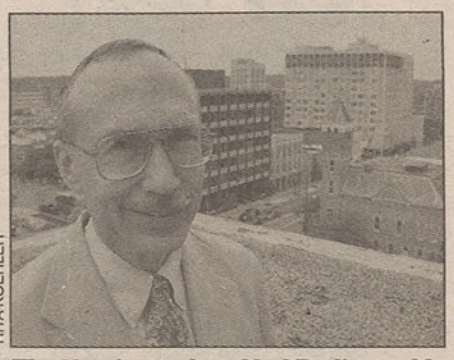
In fact, council has nothing to be ashamed of—but the *News* most certainly does. The entire series of articles is built on a fiction. It's just not true that the city faces huge new expenses because of the early retirement program.

The dreaded "millions of dollars" are all existing liabilities for accumulated vacation and sick time—money that the city will have to pay whenever those employees retire. Paying it now just means the city won't have to pay it later. There will be some short-term pain, since so many employees took the retirement offer—but that, too, will be far less than the *News* suggests.

The paper stressed that the city will spend $1.8 million in severance payouts this year. What it neglected to mention is that Ann Arbor is *already* spending about $1.4 million a year on such payments—and that this year's extra expense will quickly be recovered through lower payouts in future years.

Long term, the news is all good: with more than 130 employees retiring, Mayor Hieftje now has a real chance to achieve his goal of reducing the city workforce by 100 people. It's the most ambitious cost-cutting plan in memory, and one that Ann Arbor taxpayers might be expected to applaud—if the *News* had bothered to tell them about it. Incredibly, the paper wrote its attacks without ever interviewing the mayor.

Lowest of all is the insinuation that Berlin "devised" the program for his own benefit. The concept came from Hieftje, not from Berlin, and the administrator repeatedly warned council members when issues they were considering would affect his own retirement. And the News *never mentioned the hefty price Berlin is personally paying for that $26,000-a-year pension—more than $140,000 up front. The city will come out ahead on Neal Berlin's retirement for years to come.*



RITA KOEHLER

The *News*'s attack on Neal Berlin would be ludicrous—if it weren't so vicious.

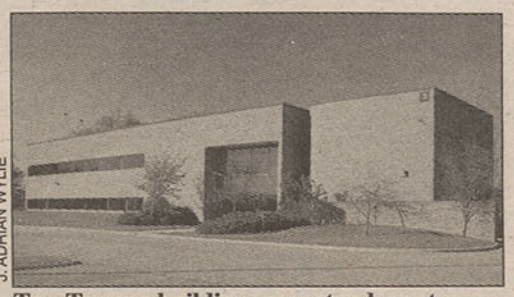
BUSINESS

Terumo's Troubles

A round of cold-blooded downsizing has employees at the heart-lung machine maker nervously speculating about its future.

"I was escorted out of the building—the whole bit," says a former employee of Terumo Cardiovascular Systems on Jackson Road. One of seventeen people abruptly dismissed in the latest round of cuts at the company, the employee had been with the firm for more than twenty years—back to when it was still run by Dick Sarns, the Ann Arbor entrepreneur who founded it in 1960.

Under Sarns and 3M, which bought him out in 1981, the company had a reputation as a benevolent place that treated employees well. Terumo has quickly reversed that. Another longtime worker learned he'd lost his job when he arrived at the office and his key card didn't work. Humiliated, he waited in the parking lot for an hour before finally going to a nearby store to call his ex-boss. "Terumo's having a hard time, and you're being laid off," he was told.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Two Terumo buildings now stand empty.

The layoffs were a dramatic moment in the Japanese company's short but turbulent history in Ann Arbor. Terumo bought the facility from 3M in 1999. At the time, between 400 and 500 people worked there, designing and manufacturing both heart-lung machines and disposable medical products such as catheters and blood filters.

Soon after the purchase, Terumo transferred most of the manufacture of disposables to a plant in Maryland. About 100 employees lost their jobs.

Worried about the future, other employees chose to move on. "When people left, you almost congratulated them, because it was such an icky place to work," recalls one former employee. After the latest layoffs, the head count is down to 280, a third lower than it was when Terumo took over. Two out of the three buildings on Jackson are now closed.

Ex-employees say they were told at meetings that the company was losing about $1 million a month. Some speculate that Terumo might pull out of Ann Arbor altogether. Not true, insists Mark Sutter, president and CEO of Terumo Cardiovascular, who was hired shortly before the firings. "We will definitely be here for many years," Sutter promises. He acknowledges, however, that times have been tough for the firm. "We're one of the top three companies in cardiovascular," he says. "If the market has difficulties, we all feel it."

Dick Sarns worked with U-M surgeons to develop one of the first practical heart-lung machines. By pumping and oxygenating blood outside the body, it paved the way for a lifesaving and lucrative business in bypasses and other "open heart" procedures.

Lately, however, the medical profession has begun to have second thoughts. Because heart-lung machines can contribute to strokes and other complications, the search is on for alternatives, including new "beating heart" operations now under development. One expert recently quoted by the *Los Angeles Times* estimated that such procedures could account for up to half of all bypass operations within the next five years. Sutter says he doubts the market for heart-lung machines will shrink that rapidly, but he acknowledges, "We're definitely planning for nontraditional open-heart surgery."

The new Terumo CEO also says there are "no plans" for further layoffs. The announcement is cold comfort to those whose jobs were so summarily disposed of. Dumped just as the country entered a recession, most are still looking for work.

SPORTS

Blue-Chip Coach

Can a former Blue Devil resurrect Maize and Blue basketball?

New head basketball coach Tommy Amaker begins his first season at Michigan four years after the university failed to lure him away from Seton Hall on the eve of the 1997–1998 campaign. Tom Goss, the athletic director at that time, had abruptly fired Steve Fisher in the wake of the Ed Martin investigation and wanted to replace him with a big-name coach. Amaker was his first choice.

The timing, however, was terrible. The prominent coaches Goss wanted were all understandably reluctant to abandon their teams on the eve of a new season. Amaker's situation was particularly difficult—the longtime Duke assistant was just starting his first season at Seton Hall. With time running out, Goss turned to Brian Ellerbe, a new and unheralded Fisher assistant.

COURTESY U-M ATHLETIC DEPT.

Tommy Amaker.

Ellerbe led the team to a Big Ten tournament championship in 1998, but that was the lone highlight of his tenure. The program deteriorated over the next three years, finishing last season with its worst record in nineteen years. Crisler Arena was half empty, media were critical, and the team's best player and hometown hero, LaVell Blanchard, was contemplating a transfer. At that point Goss's successor, Bill Martin, fired Ellerbe and turned again to Amaker—who in three short seasons had led floundering Seton Hall from last place in the Big East conference to a remarkable Sweet Sixteen appearance in the 2000 NCAA tournament.

At the U-M's October media day, Amaker, thirty-six, looked poised and confident. "This is a crucial moment in the history of our program," he declared, "and

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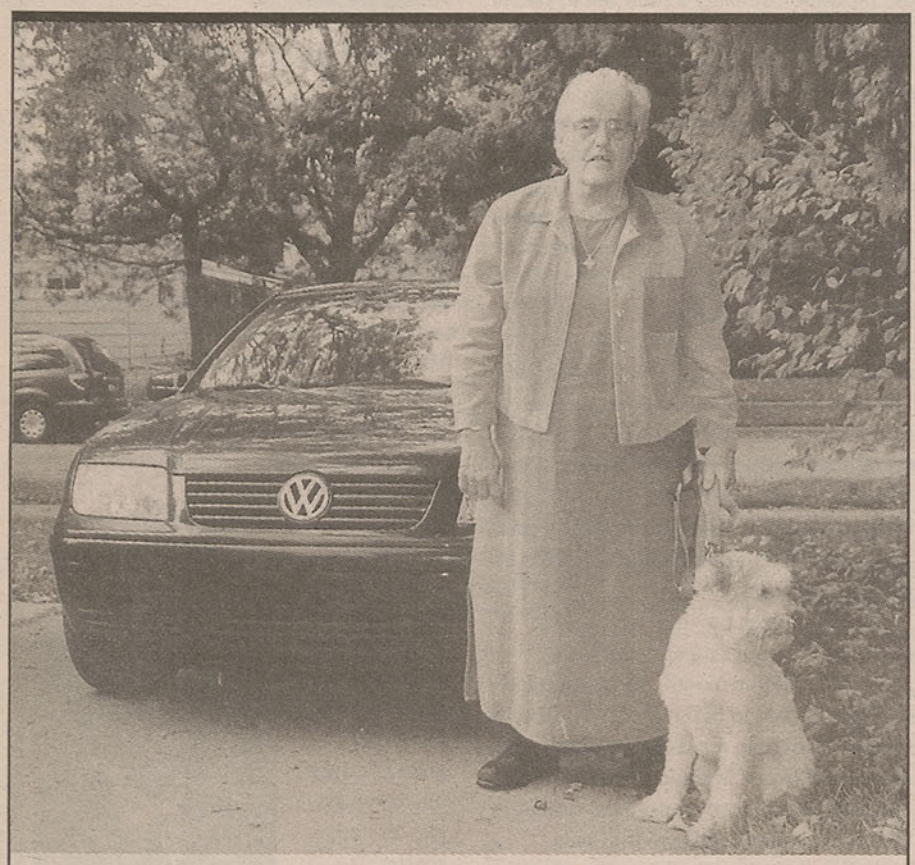

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Sallie Churchill
U-M professor emerita
(and Shanlee)

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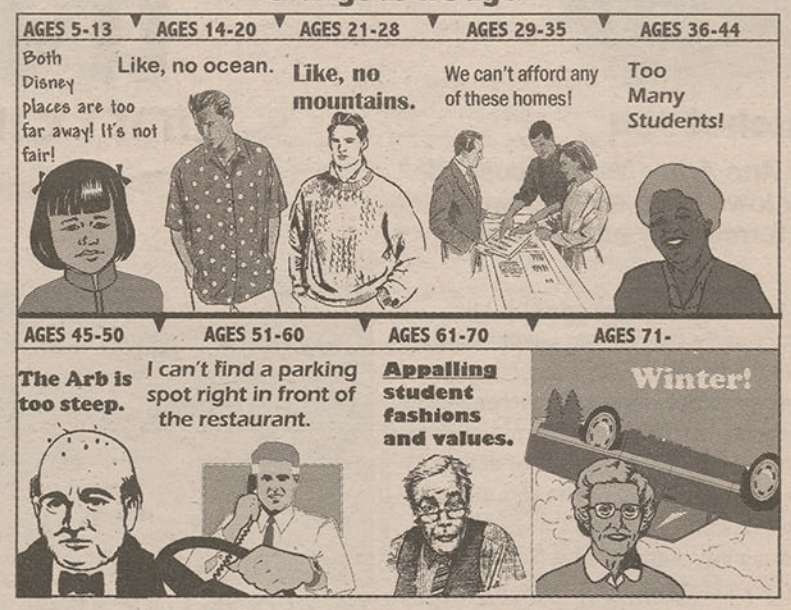
LIFE IN ANN ARBOR — Tim Athan


Our complaints about Ann Arbor change as we age...
AGES 5-13
Both Disney places are too far away! It's not fair!
AGES 14-20
Like, no ocean.
AGES 21-28
Like, no mountains.
AGES 29-35
We can't afford any of these homes!
AGES 36-44
Too Many Students!
AGES 45-50
The Arb is too steep.
AGES 51-60
I can't find a parking spot right in front of the restaurant.
AGES 61-70
Appalling student fashions and values.
AGES 71-
Winter!

I am proud to have been chosen to be the leader." And lead he has. Soon after his hiring last March, Blanchard announced he would stay. In the spring Amaker sent a message to his young team by dismissing Maurice Searight, who had discipline problems all last season. Over the summer he worked with the marketing department to make Crisler over—moving banners, simplifying the look of the court, and creating bleacher seating for the "Maize Rage," a student section that Amaker hopes will one day rival Duke's Cameron Crazies.

Equally important, Amaker "understands that Michigan is an academic institution first," says AD Bill Martin. At the beginning of the fall semester, the new coach sent a letter to the entire faculty assuring them that he "will be as strict with regard to our players' academics as I know you to be with your students'." Residential College director Tom Weisskopf, who's been concerned about the lack of academic accountability in the basketball program, including abysmal graduation rates for African American players, was impressed. "In three decades here, I have never received such a letter from any coach in any sport," says Weisskopf.

By October Amaker and his staff had already locked up their first (and very highly touted) Michigan recruiting class. The players also shared an optimism and enthusiasm for the start of the season that has been noticeably absent the last few years. Behemoth center Josh Moore summed up the sentiment of most of his teammates: "Last year we did not have the right general. This year we do."

Amaker promises that this year's team will improve on last year's performance, especially defensively, but offers no predictions about win-loss record and post-season appearances. When asked where the power in the Big Ten is this year, he smiles and says, "Not in Ann Arbor." Nonetheless, he vows, "we will play with passion."

The Observer Survey

As the school board breaks into factions that oppose and support superintendent Rossi Ray-Taylor, we surveyed the troops on the educational front lines: elementary school principals. The nine women and four men who responded to our questions averaged just over fifty years old; they've been principals, on average, for more than eight years and educators for twenty-six years. Asked whether it's harder to maintain good student conduct now than it was a decade ago, one declined to answer and the rest split down the middle—half said yes, half no.

15% say that their students are less academically motivated now than they were a decade ago.

25% say that their students' extracurricular schedules are too demanding.

50% say that helping to educate African American students is one of the biggest challenges they face.

54% consider their schools to be well funded.

71% agree that parents have become more concerned about their children's safety in school since September 11.

77% say that students would benefit if principals had more authority to hire and fire teachers.

73%—principals' average estimate of the proportion of "outstanding" teachers in their school.

9—average rating they'd give the Ann Arbor Public Schools administration, on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high).

3—average rating they'd give the school board.

The Zingerman's® Times

Vol. 4 No. 12 © 2001 DSE Inc. December 2001 Printed in Ann Arbor Land of a Thousand Flavors

Zing news nibbles

Parmesan Pepper Makes New York Times!

Kudos to the Bakehouse Parmesan Pepper bread! In the November 7th issue of the *New York Times*, food writer Marian Burros placed it on her "all-time top 25" mail order picks list! For more thoughts on great gifts to mail, call Mail Order at (888) 636-8162.

Potato Latkes Spotted at Ann Arbor Deli

Named to *USA Today's* "10 Great Places to Order a Genuine Jewish Nosh" Zingerman's Deli is reputedly stocking up on latkes (potato pancakes) in preparation for this year's Hannukah celebrations. "They're a hit at my Hannukah party every year," said David Taitel. Also available—homemade applesauce and fresh sour cream. Call (734) 663-DELI to order yours today!

ZingTrain Continues to Serve Up Great Training

A *Times* source has tipped us off to great training in the near future! ZingTrain will be holding their fabulous **"Bottom-Line Training"** on December 3rd, and **"The Art of Giving Great Service"** on the 4th. For more details, call (734) 930-1919.

inside Zingerman's

Zingerman's Delicatessen	422 Detroit St. 734.663.DELI
Zingerman's Bakehouse	3711 Plaza Dr. 734.761.2095
Zingerman's Catering	422 Detroit St. 734.663.3400
Zingerman's mail order	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
ZingTrain	PO Box 1837 734.930.1919
Zingerman's creamery	Manchester, MI 734.665.1901

www.Zingermans.com

Sourcream Takes Cake! Gifts Fly Out All Over Country!

Zingerman's Times reporters have discovered the source of what the *New York Times* identified as one of the nation's top 21 food gifts of 2000: Zingerman's classic sourcream coffeecake.

Loaded with sour cream, sweet butter, toasted walnuts and Indonesian cinnamon, locals have been buying up this special sweet treat for well over a decade. "My mouth just waters thinking about this amazing coffee cake," said pastry-lover, Amy Brereton. In recent years, Zingerman's Mail Order has been shipping larger quantities all over North America. Packed into special wooden gift crates, they're reputedly a huge hit with recipients.

Times sources indicate however, that these coffee cakes are merely the tip of a much larger network of pastry-based gift giving. "Magic Brownies have been the biggest surprise hit of the year," reports Mail Order's Brownie Baroness, Jackie Edginton. A combination of new offerings (including the amazing Buenos Aires Brownies filled with Argentine Dulce de Leche caramel cream), and higher national interest in brownies has sales soaring (Zingerman's sales went up nearly 300% over last year). As Mail Order managing partner Mo Frechette puts it: " They're goin' gangbusters!"

The biggest impact seems to be on the folks who get all this great stuff to eat. "One size fits all," says Paul Saginaw. "And it's never the wrong color," he adds. For details on how to improve the eating experiences of friends and loved ones all over America this month, food lovers are flocking to call (888) 636-8162 or linking up with zingermans.com.

Food-lovers all over wait happily for Mail Order's gift-boxes of tasty treats .

Catering Cuts High Profile

Times society reporters report intriguing activities within Zingerman's Catering.

Catering Director David Normann, recently relocated from Chicago where he ran the highly-esteemed Culinary Enterprises catering operations, is reported to be bringing incredible new touches to the already well-established catering crew. *Times* sources indicate that events earlier this autumn have featured everything from local fundraisers to large-scale weddings. In fact, one wedding guest where Zingerman's catered was heard to say, "We love the bride and groom, but we really came for Zingerman's Catering! Their Niman Ranch free-range pork, seasoned with olive oil and wild Tuscan fennel pollen was a show stopper!"

To make sure your holiday season is a memorable one too, give Catering a call at (734) 663-3400 soon! There are still a few slots open for Hannukah, Christmas and New Year's.

Steal a Stollen Moment with Zingerman's Bakehouse!

The Zingerman's *Times* has been inundated with phone calls asking if Zingerman's Bakehouse stollen has been seen around town. This frenzy got our investigators curious: what was this stollen, and why were so many waiting with baited breath? Going right to the source, we asked the pastry crew at Zingerman's Bakehouse what made their stollen so special. Their response was overwhelming! First, they wanted us to know that their stollen had become one of the all-time best treats from the Bakehouse, and that it is made with lots of sweet butter, Bacardi® rum, lemons, oranges, Michigan dried cherries, citron, currants, almonds, sultanas, real vanilla and more. According to the Bakehouse, stollen is a traditional German holiday cake. One unknown fan couldn't stop raving about it. "It's absolutely fantastic! The Bakehouse says it'll keep for months, but I've never been able to keep one long enough to find out!"

The best news of all? Stollen season officially opens on December 1st. Order soon though–these tempting treats apparently don't last long! Available at Zingerman's Bakehouse and at the Delicatessen. Or, if you have a faraway friend with a craving, call Zingerman's Mail Order at (888) 636-8162 or log onto zingermans.com.

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SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Department clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins. At this point a number of City departments become involved, supplementing the Public Services Department's equipment and operators. While the Public Services Department crews clear the major streets, Parks and Recreation and Utilities Department's crews begin working on the residential streets. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

The City developed a high need snow removal plan to further define the responsibility of the various departments when the snow removal operation moves into a high need situation. High need is described as any urgent situation which requires personnel and/or equipment which exceeds what is available within the department that is primarily responsible to address the service.

The City Administrator may declare a "snow emergency" during a severe winter storm. During a snow emergency, special parking restrictions go into effect for all streets in the city. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed and impounded.

Where street parking is normally permitted, restrictions go into effect to allow curbside access to City crews to clear the street surfaces:

* **On even-numbered days, vehicles may not park on the even-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.

* **On odd-numbered days, vehicles may not park on the odd-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered sides of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.

* **Designated snow emergency routes must be kept clear of parked vehicles at all times during the snow emergency.**

The City snow desk is staffed during snow emergencies. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width of the public sidewalk. This enables people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Calls & Letters

Ypsilanti's AIDS ministry

"In some ways this is a correction, but not quite, because I know you're covering the Ann Arbor scene," Pam Hoffer told us by voice mail. Responding to a November item about a new AIDS education program at Bethel AME Church, Hoffer pointed out that "the church that has been ministering to AIDS and HIV people for a number of years—and has been not embraced by the other black churches in the Ministerial Alliance because of their stand on gay and lesbian welcoming—is St. Peter AME on Watling [in Ypsilanti Township]. They've been doing AIDS counseling, AIDS detection, testing, for several years. And they are poor as church mice. They've been ministering on a shoestring, and deserve recognition."

Two Pfizer corrections

Our apologies to David Canter, the head of Pfizer's Ann Arbor research laboratory—our November Inside Ann Arbor item about the lab's proposed expansion got his first name wrong.

We also overstated the size of the tax break the company was requesting. Most of the $600–$800 million the company proposes to spend would go not to constructing buildings but to equipping them. Though the city taxes business equipment, the rate is much lower than for real estate, and it declines as the equipment depreciates. A key council vote was scheduled as the Observer went to press, but assuming Pfizer spent $300 million on land and buildings, its cumulative tax break would total $45 million.

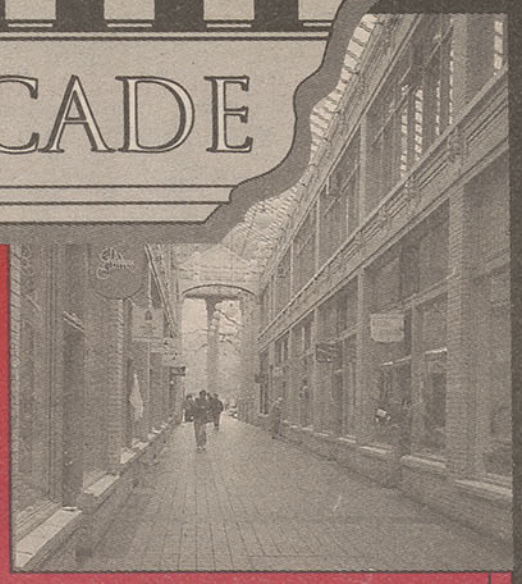
Misdirections

Our caption writers had some serious directional problems in the November issue. John Sullivan's aerial photo of the Pfizer complex in Inside Ann Arbor was taken from the east, not the west. Meanwhile, the radiant glow enveloping Cobblestone Farm on the front cover came from the west, not from the east—as artist Jim Clark was the first to point out. The correct title of Clark's cover painting is *Last Light at Cobblestone*.

Craft Appliance

In September's Marketplace Changes column, a ten-year follow-up item noted the opening and closing of the Craft Appliance store on Jackson. In November owner Frealin Craft called to say that he'd been hearing from people who took that to mean that he's closed his business. Craft still sells appliances from his Freedom Township warehouse and also provides parts and service; he can be reached at 971–2100.

NICKELS ARCADE



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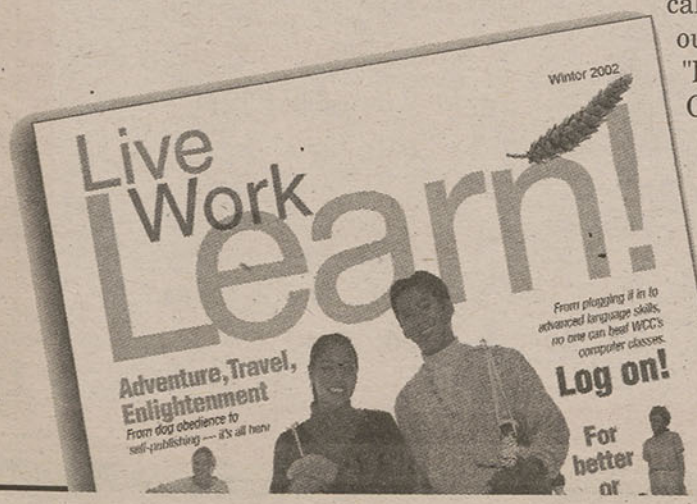
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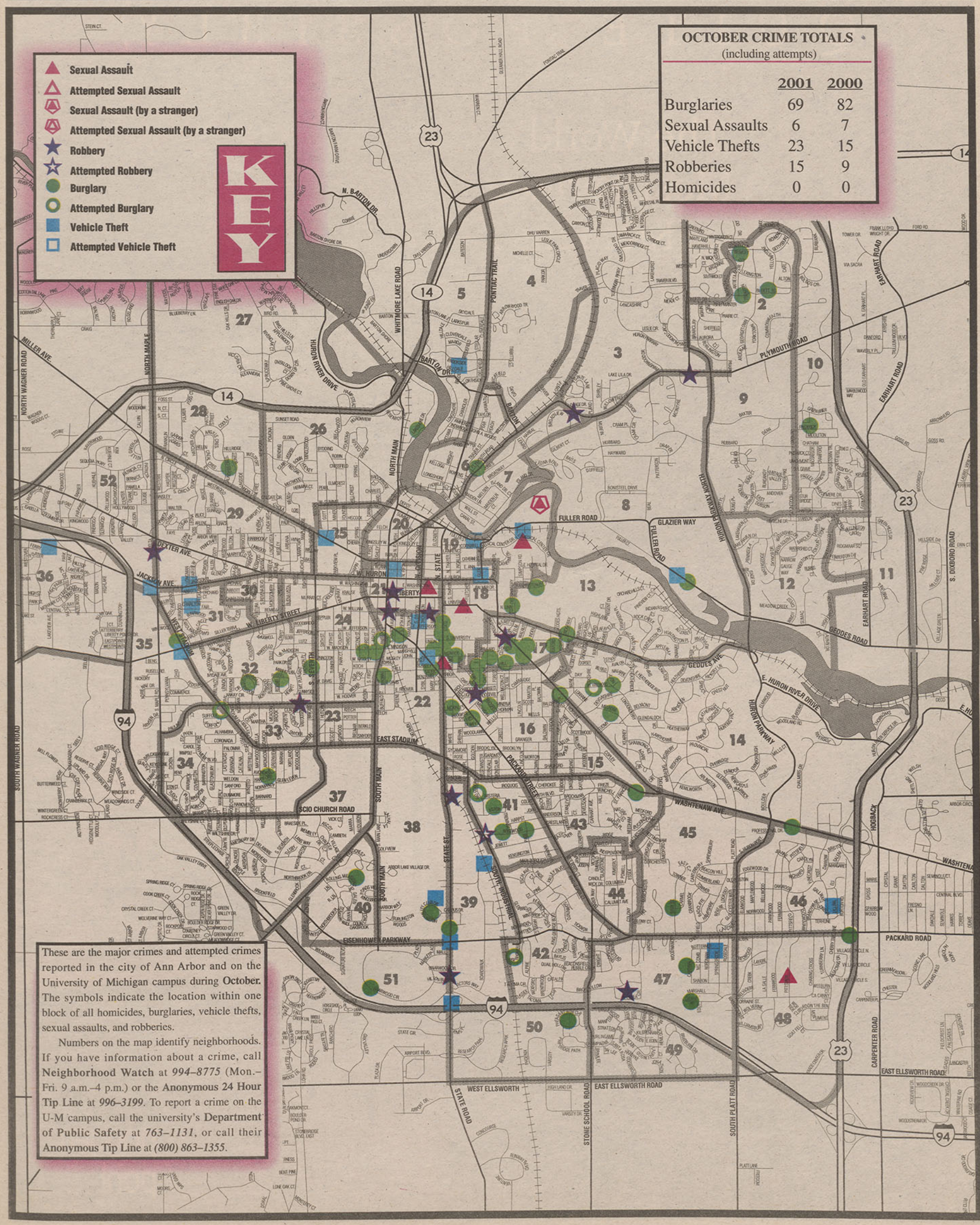
CRIME MAP


KEY
Sexual Assault
Attempted Sexual Assault
Sexual Assault (by a stranger)
Attempted Sexual Assault (by a stranger)
Robbery
Attempted Robbery
Burglary
Attempted Burglary
Vehicle Theft
Attempted Vehicle Theft
OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)
2001 2000
Burglaries 69 82
Sexual Assaults 6 7
Vehicle Thefts 23 15
Robberies 15 9
Homicides 0 0
These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the city of Ann Arbor and on the University of Michigan campus during October. The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.
Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call Neighborhood Watch at 994–8775 (Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or the Anonymous 24 Hour Tip Line at 996–3199. To report a crime on the U-M campus, call the university's Department of Public Safety at 763–1131, or call their Anonymous Tip Line at (800) 863–1355.
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BARTON DR.
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GLAZIER WAY
HURON PARKWAY NORTH
DEXTER AVE.
JACKSON AVE.
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WEST STADIUM
S. STATE
N. STATE
E. LIBERTY
W. HURON
EAST STADIUM
GEDDES AVE.
GEDDES ROAD
E. HURON RIVER DRIVE
HURON PARKWAY
PACKARD STREET
WASHTENAW AVE.
SOUTH MAIN
STATE ST.
SOUTH INDUSTRIAL
SCIO CHURCH ROAD
EISENHOWER PARKWAY
SOUTH WAGNER ROAD
HOGBACK
PACKARD ROAD
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EAST ELLSWORTH ROAD
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23
14

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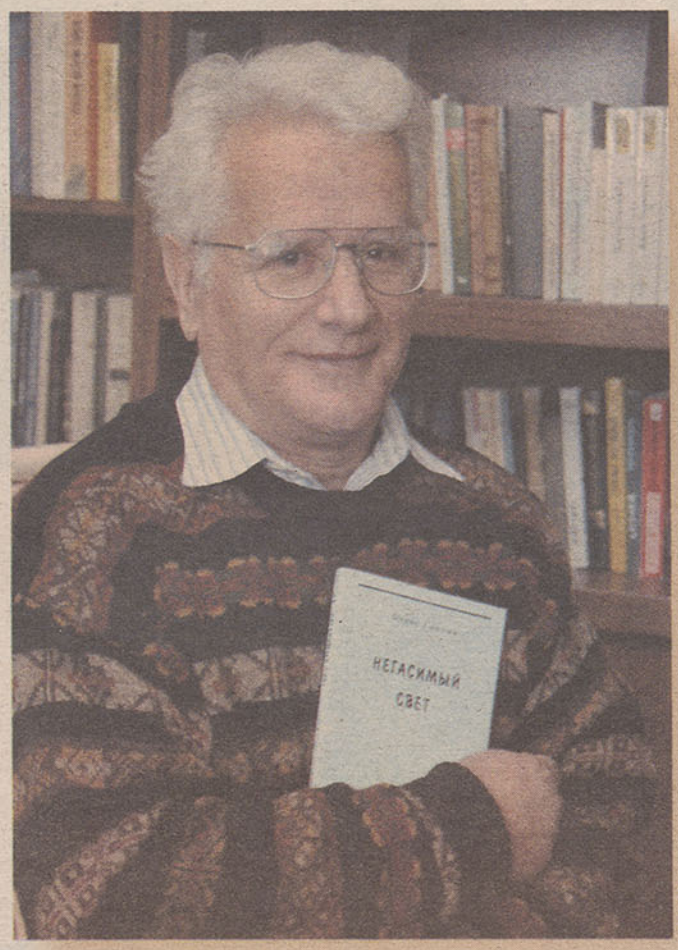
Boris Gankin

Poet in exile



MARGARET WHITE TEALL

"In Russia I am highly educated. Here I do not have words to tell you what I am thinking," says Boris Gankin. Now sixty-five, Gankin arrived in Ann Arbor four years ago knowing no English. In his native Belarus, a former Soviet republic lying between Poland and Russia, he was a well-known man of letters, publishing seven books of poetry and translating the works of other poets while making his living as the systems manager of a textile factory in the capital, Minsk.

An experienced mountain climber, Gankin is ruggedly handsome, with thick white hair and striking blue eyes. His good looks are matched by a charm that in the Soviet era gained him a life filled with friends, concerts, and theater. "I think he is an optimist and a romantic," says his sister Margaret Mordukhovich, who lives in Scio Township. Gankin's son Leonid recalls that his father led family and friends on walking tours through various cities. "He could tell stories about every house in St. Petersburg," Leonid remembers.

Gankin's good spirits are remarkable in view of the hardships he has experienced. In 1941, when he was four years old, Nazi forces invaded the Soviet Union. As the Germans swept over Belarus, Gankin's father joined the Red Army. Gankin, his mother, and his grandfather were evacuated more than 1,800 miles from Minsk to Kurgan, in the Ural Mountains. Gankin recalls World War II as "four years of hunger." Rations were so meager that he sometimes ate cattle feed—pressed sunflower seeds from which the oil had been removed. It was barely enough to sustain life, and many around him died.

Gankin survived, only to grapple with rampant anti-Semitism. When he was in high school, the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin staged his infamous conspiracy trial of Jewish doctors. Jewish theaters were closed, Jewish writers were arrested, and Jews simply disappeared. Gankin remembers his parents sobbing behind closed doors.

"This was the period when I recognized that I am Jew," says Gankin.

Even though he was first in his high school class, Gankin was not allowed to attend the college of his choice because he was Jewish. He wound up studying engineering at the Belarussian Technological Institute in Minsk. There, too, he graduated first in his class. His academic status saved him from being forced to move to the provinces to work, as most Jews were.

"It was only because Stalin died that Jews were allowed to live at all," Gankin says. "God saved us."

God is a relatively new presence in Gankin's life. "I was disaccustomed to God," he recalls. Under the Soviets, he says, "God, tradition, was killed."

For forty years Gankin worked from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the textile factory. At night and on weekends, he wrote poems. His published poetry encompasses many themes and forms: nature, love, his childhood memories of war, plus playful poems for children. But the Soviet censors forced one part of his writings to stay unpublished: his poems about Judaism and anti-Semitism. They gathered dust until he came to the United States in 1996.

In his new life in Ann Arbor, Gankin has resolutely returned to Jewish themes. His hauntingly horrific poem "The Old Jewish Cemetery in Minsk" is inspired by a scene he saw as a child:

Once, it rained for many days. The gloomy morning
showed where the rain had washed open a ditch
filled with bodies of women and children.
We cried and ran home.
My mother explained: these are the bodies of Jews
buried alive by Nazis. . . .

Gankin's grandmother was one of the victims. Today her sad eyes keep watch from a painted portrait in Gankin's living room. "My story is typical for Belarussian Jews," he says. He gestures toward Tamara Burman, a fellow émigré who joins the conversation as interpreter when Gankin needs some help. "Tamara's grandparents lived in Ukraine and were also buried alive.

"Everything I tell you is my pain," Gankin says. "This is the topic of my poetry." Since arriving in the United States he has published his poems in Russian-language magazines in New York and several other cities. Two years ago the International Pushkin Society named him its poet laureate. He hopes to see his poems translated into English.

Despite what he and his family went through in the former Soviet Union, Gankin struggled with the decision to emigrate. His wife, Margaret, was ready to leave in 1992, when their two sons moved to Ann Arbor. It took Gankin five years to come to the same choice: he feared he would never find a community of friends as caring and kind as the ones they had in Minsk, nor an audience for his poetry. In Belarus he had been a minor celebrity.

But life in Ann Arbor agrees with the Gankins. They enrolled in English classes when they arrived, and both now have some proficiency. Their two-story townhouse is filled with memorabilia, including watercolors of St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Minsk and photos of Gankin against snow-capped peaks. Gankin continues to impress sons Michael and Leonid, both software engineers, with his achievements—not the least of which is driving a van for senior citizens at the Jewish Community Center. In all his years in Belarus, he never even drove a car. "Had anybody told me in Russia that I would drive a bus now at my age, I would tell him he's crazy!" he exclaims.

This New Year the Gankin home will be a gathering place for friends and family, as it was in Belarus. If tradition holds, Boris will dress as Grandfather Frost—a kind of secular Santa Claus, complete with red gown and white beard—and deliver presents for everyone. He may also compose the holiday entertainment, as he did back home, with music, readings, and comedy performed by different people. Last year he published his eighth book of poetry; he translates the Russian title as *Inextinguishable Light.*

"This book is special for me because I wrote it between new and old life," he says. "I could not forget about my old life, and I try to understand and love new country. It is difficult, but it is interesting."

—Rachel Urist

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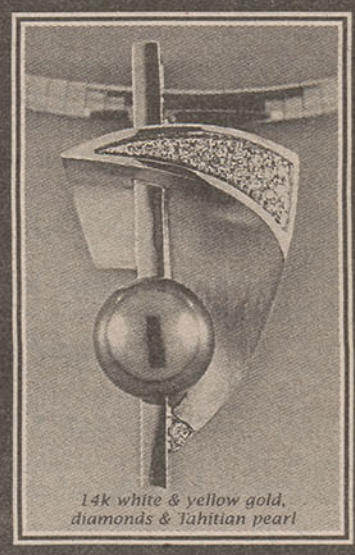

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The Prosecutor

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Brian Mackie grew up poor and distrustful of authority. But as a young lawyer he had a change of heart—and decided that the people who enforce the laws are the good guys.

by Eve Silberman

When Brian Mackie was a student at Slauson, he got in trouble so often that a teacher predicted he'd end up in jail. Instead, he ended up as Washtenaw County's prosecuting attorney.

To hear Mackie tell about it, though, the teacher's prediction didn't seem out of line. "I hated school," he says. His mother was born in Arkansas, so he entered kindergarten speaking with a southern accent—and walking with a limp. There was nothing wrong with his leg, but "my grandmother had a limp and I thought everyone walked that way," he remembers.

Mackie's father had left the household when he was two years old, and Brian rarely saw him afterward. His mother worked long hours at King Seeley, making auto parts. His grandmother helped look after him until he was eleven. After her death he was left to supervise himself, and he got in a lot of fights.

Mackie, fifty-three, shares these memories without a trace of self-pity. "I'm not going to bad-mouth him," he says of his father. "I feel my life was just fine without him. One parent is enough if it's the right parent. My mother is a marvelous woman."

Looking for a charitable way to recast Mackie's description of his youth, I say that it sounds as if he was "rambunctious." He'll have none of it. "I was a little jerk," he insists.

Mackie's blunt moralism spares no one, least of all himself. It's no surprise to learn that Harry Truman is one of his heroes. "He was a regular kind of guy who did incredible things," Mackie says of the one-time Missouri haberdasher.

Mackie, too, sees himself as a regular guy. "I've never done anything brilliant in my life," he insists. And like Truman, Mackie is better known for his plainspokenness and honesty than for his slick political packaging. Though he runs as a Democrat, he plays down the partisanship of his office, and he says that most of Michigan's eighty-three county prosecutors do likewise. "As a group I would say prosecutors are among the least political people I know," he says. "Every good Democratic prosecutor hears that he or she is a bad Democrat, and the Republican prosecutors hear the same thing [from Republicans]."

Mackie may or may not be a bad Democrat, but he's a successful politician. Running unopposed last year, he got more votes than any other candidate for county office. ("Al Gore," he jokes, "ran on my coattails.") He's now serving his third term, and the job is probably his as long as he wants it. Mackie runs a scandal-free office, he hires talented assistants, and the biggest criticism of him—that he's too zealous in prosecuting domestic violence cases—hardly seems likely to hurt him with Ann Arbor voters.

Unlike many prosecutors, Mackie doesn't see his job as a stepping-stone to higher office. As grim as it can be to constantly see the worst in people, he's convinced he can make a difference for those who need the protection of the law. "People should be able to live their lives, mind their own businesses, without the fear of violence," he says. "If you think about the worst bullies on earth, they are batterers, they are rapists, they are child abusers, people who abuse the elderly.

"It's easy for society to protect the rich, the strong, people who can take care of themselves," he continues. The measure of the prosecutor's office, he says, is "how do we protect the more vulnerable people?"

"An incredibly interesting and quirky man"

As classes file into the Huron High auditorium one recent morning, Brian Mackie is pacing the aisles. A big man, six feet one and broad shouldered with a shock of white hair, he reminds some people of politician Newt Gingrich, others of former talk show host Phil Donahue.

Mackie is here today to talk to the kids about his work, but right now he's looking for dropped coins. Though the prosecutor earns $94,500 a year, he's always on the lookout for spare change, which he uses to buy gifts. Recently, while talking about domestic violence, a subject about which he feels passionately, he carefully cleaned a mud-caked penny.

One of the teachers asks whether he wants to use a lectern, but Mackie declines. Instead, once the kids are sitting down, he stands casually at the front of the auditorium.

His opening remarks are brief and tailored to this audience. "If you've ever watched the prosecutors on *Law and Order,* you've got absolutely the wrong idea of what prosecutors do. They're not rich, they don't go to the scene of every crime, they don't sit in [interrogations] with every criminal.

"What we do is we prosecute violations of state law—everything from having two fishing lines in the water at once to murder."

He throws the floor open to questions. This can be risky, because he's sometimes confronted by relatives of people who, thanks to his efforts, are now in jail. That doesn't happen today, but several kids, delighted at a chance to grill the prosecutor, raise their hands.

"Do you support the death penalty?" is the first question.

"No," Mackie says flatly. After a pause, he continues, "That was the number-one question pollsters show most people had when I ran for election [for the first time in 1992]. Polls showed some twenty percent were against it. I never did find the twenty percent.

"I don't think the death penalty has ever been applied fairly. I don't see many rich people [being executed]."

Someone asks about the much publicized Supreme Court decision that confirmed the Boy Scouts' right to reject gay men as leaders.

"Everyone needs to have their rights protected," Mackie responds. "In my office we're not pushing United Way because of the Boy Scouts."

Another student asks how he feels about Ann Arbor's notorious twenty-five-dollar fine for possession of pot. "Marijuana ordi-

The Zingerman's® Times

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Zing news nibbles

Italian Trade Commission Infiltrates Delicatessen with Italian Promotion

Reports emanating from New York state that the Italian Trade Commission will be taking up residence at Zingerman's during the first two weeks of December. According to *Times* sources, the local Deli has joined forces with the Commission to highlight Italy's wonderful, regional specialties, from handmade cheeses, cured meats and pastas to olive oils. Just as Zingerman's is committed to bringing traditional, full-flavored foods to its guests, so too, is the Italian Trade Commission committed to educating food-lovers about the many fantastic, traditionally-made foods still being produced in Italy today. "We're really excited about this partnership," said the Deli's Italian Impresario, Randy Fitzpatrick. For more information on the Italian Trade Commission's mission, link up with 'em at www.italianmade.com, and for more yummy tastes of Italy, stop by the Deli in December!

Zingerman's Parmesan Pepper Bread (made with Parmigiano-Reggiano) was named a top 25 mail order pick by the *New York Times*!

inside Zingerman's

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It's "Naturalmente Italiano" at Zingerman's!
Organic Parmigiano-Reggiano Wins Raves!

Modena, Italy – The *Zingerman's Times* has learned that the very flavorful organic farmhouse Parmigiano-Reggiano that has been available at Zingerman's for the last year or so, is also the top Parm pick of opera star Luciano Pavarotti. To verify this report, Zingerman's very own Ari Weinzweig visited the dairy in question on his last trip to Italy. "It's a beautiful spot," he said, "about six hundred meters up in the mountains outside of the Modena." Which just happens to be the hometown of the self-same Pavarotti. Turns out, his picture is plastered all over the dairy. "He buys 15 kilos to take with him every time he goes to America," said dairy manager, Signor Valerio Minelli. Not only does Pavarotti like it, but the Modena dairy is one of only eight dairies that make organic Parmigiano (there are actually 500 dairies that make Parmigiano). Even more unusual, it's only made with the milk of the farm's own herd, almost unheard of these days. Most importantly, said Weinzweig, is the way this Farm Parm tastes. "The flavor is the best I've had in ages. While I was in Italy, I tasted Parmigiano from fifteen different dairies, and this one still takes top honors. It's more flavorful, without any bitterness, and it has a lovely, long finish." It's a delightful celebration of Italian flavor. Which is why you'll find this fantastic cheese, and many other Italian treasures in the Deli spotlight this December. Trust this reporter–with these exquisite edibles–it'll make the tone deaf burst into song! **$18.99 for a pound or less, $15.99 for a pound or more at the Deli.**

Pavarotti gladly sings Modena's organic, Parmigiano-Reggiano's praises!

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Join Ari Weinzweig for an evening of Italian cheese tastes! $15/person. Call (734) 663-3400 to reserve a spot!

Would the Real Pecorino Romano Please Stand Up?

Rome, Italy –*Times* reporters have discovered that most Pecorino Romano cheese found in American supermarkets isn't really from Rome! Although shocking, our team of cheese trackers wasn't surprised. To verify the findings, *Times* reporters went to Zingerman's to get the story straight. "It's true," said Zingerman's Romano expert, Carlos Souffront. "For some reason, most of the Pecorino Romano found in the grocery store is actually a subpar sheep's milk made on the island of Sardinia, but is still allowed to keep the name 'Romano'." The good news, however, is that Zingerman's Delicatessen has been able to get its collective hands on the real thing. "The Fulvi Pecorino Romano we've got, is definitely the real thing," says Souffront. "It's made from pure sheep's milk, then aged for over ten months in the hills outside of Rome. "To make sure Zingerman's had the true stuff, *Times* cheese experts asked for a taste, and were blown over by the taste. "It's significantly less salty than most Romanos I've had," said one very happy cheese investigator. The flavor comes through loud and clear–you can almost taste the character of the milk! Very tangy, this Pecorino Romano is great for grating in pasta, soups, casseroles or sautéed vegetables. So, for those Romano fans searching for the real thing–your wait is over. Zingerman's has your answer in Fulvi Pecorino Romano. It really does bring a gutsy, rustic, authentic Roman flavor to your pasta! Available at the Deli, or for your cheese-lover far away, give Zingerman's Mail Order a call at (888) 636-8162, or log onto zingermans.com. **For more on authentic Italian flavor, check out the Italian Trade Commission at www. italianmade.com!**

Parma Ham Proclaimed "A Cut Above the Rest!"

Parma, Italy – When Prosciutto headquarters recently declared Prosciutto di Parma, "a cut above the rest," many prosciutto lovers were in agreement. One fan was effusive about its flavor: "It is succulently sweet. Amazingly, its flavor comes from just time, sea salt and air–and that's it!" Further research, by the *Times*' international edibles department has verified this claim. In fact, its flavor is developed under strict guidelines set by the Prosciutto Consorzio. Apparently, Parma pigs must be at least nine months of age and follow a strict diet. The hams are then aged for a year, with the help of sea salt and air. One Consorzio communicator was heard emphatically stating that, "Smoke, sugar or spices are not allowed!" And really, they know. Although Prosciutto di Parma has only been seen on this side of the Atlantic since 1989, it's been produced in Langhirano (not far outside of Parma city), for just about two thousand years! Once through the process, many of the hams earn the Ducal Seal, signifying them as true Prosciutto's di Parma.

Fortunately, for prosciutto-lovers stateside, the real thing can be found right in Ann Arbor at Zingerman's Delicatessen. "It's great to eat just as it is," said Zingerman's Meat Maestro, Kevin Hobart. And why buck tradition? Italians love to eat this wonderful meat just as is, so kind of like the saying goes, "When in Parma, do as Parma does!" **Available at the Deli for $24.99/lb.** Buon Appetito!

you really can taste the difference!

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"It's easy for society to protect the rich, the strong, people who can take care of themselves," Mackie says. The measure of the prosecutor's office is "how do we protect the more vulnerable people?"

nances promote disrespect for the law," Mackie replies. He adds tartly, "The Ann Arbor City Council doesn't want to do anything about it. They're afraid it will irritate some of the voters who are dope smokers."

Later, back at his downtown office, Mackie acknowledges that all city council could do about the pot law is place it on the ballot—as part of the city charter, it can be changed only by popular vote. But the stinging, offhand remark is vintage Mackie. Good trial lawyers tend to be combative—and by most accounts Mackie is one of the best trial lawyers the county has ever seen.

While Mackie makes good sound bites, he's too complex to be reduced to one himself. "He's an incredibly interesting and quirky man," says social worker Joan Dowdy, who works with the prosecutor on juvenile issues. Although Mackie is eager to talk about issues like domestic violence, he's disinclined to say much about himself. Reluctant to be interviewed by the Observer, he agreed only after spending weeks trying to persuade me to focus on other people in his office instead.

That wariness, of course, may also have an element of self-protectiveness. Once the lid is off, Mackie is one of the least evasive of local public figures.

The prosecutor knows his Trumanesque bluntness can get him into trouble, but he just can't help himself. He calls sex offenders "perverts" and believes that very few can be successfully rehabilitated. He shakes his head at some of the "gun nuts" who have come in to apply for concealed-weapons permits since new state legislation made them easier to get—like the woman who'd apparently forgotten that there was a warrant out for her arrest. And then there are the "incurable ultraliberals who are appalled that we prosecute people. . . . If they had the world together the way they wanted it, they wouldn't live long."

Mackie says of his own political stance, "I'm very liberal and very conservative." Businessman Dale Leslie, who's known Mackie since seventh grade, recalls once telling the prosecutor that he supposed most people who committed terrible crimes were mentally ill. As Leslie recalls it, Mackie responded, "There are actually people in the world who are evil."

"I can't tell you how much I've thought about that the last few weeks [since September 11]," Leslie says.

Mackie confirms that he believes that "some criminals—and it's only a small percentage of people we see—are just plain evil through and through." One example, he says, is Ervin Mitchell, the serial rapist who strangled and bludgeoned a woman to death in 1994. But Mackie stresses that such criminals are the exception, not the rule.

"Often the people I convict are friendly," he says. "They believe their job is to be a criminal and mine is to be a prosecutor." He adds that after serving their sentences, "sometimes they've done real well." In fact, he adds, ex-cons "are often the most pleasant people I talk to."

Suddenly he leans across the table, a teasing gleam in his eye. "Now I should say that not every evil person is a criminal," he tells me. "Some of them are *journalists*."

The boy from Willow Village

Mackie can empathize with people who get in trouble with the law. He started out expecting to defend people charged with crimes, not prosecute them.

Part of his reasoning, he reflects, "might have been buying into television when I was a kid. Prosecutors were always the bad guys, and everybody charged with a crime was good—a view which many people in Ann Arbor still hold. And the people I grew up with were much more likely to be on the defendant's side of the ledger than the victim's."

When Mackie was born, his family lived in Willow Village in Ypsilanti. Hastily built during World War II as temporary housing for workers at the nearby bomber plant, Willow Village was cheap and crowded. The residents were near the bottom of the county's socioeconomic ladder.

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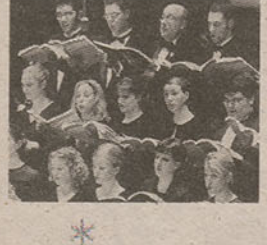
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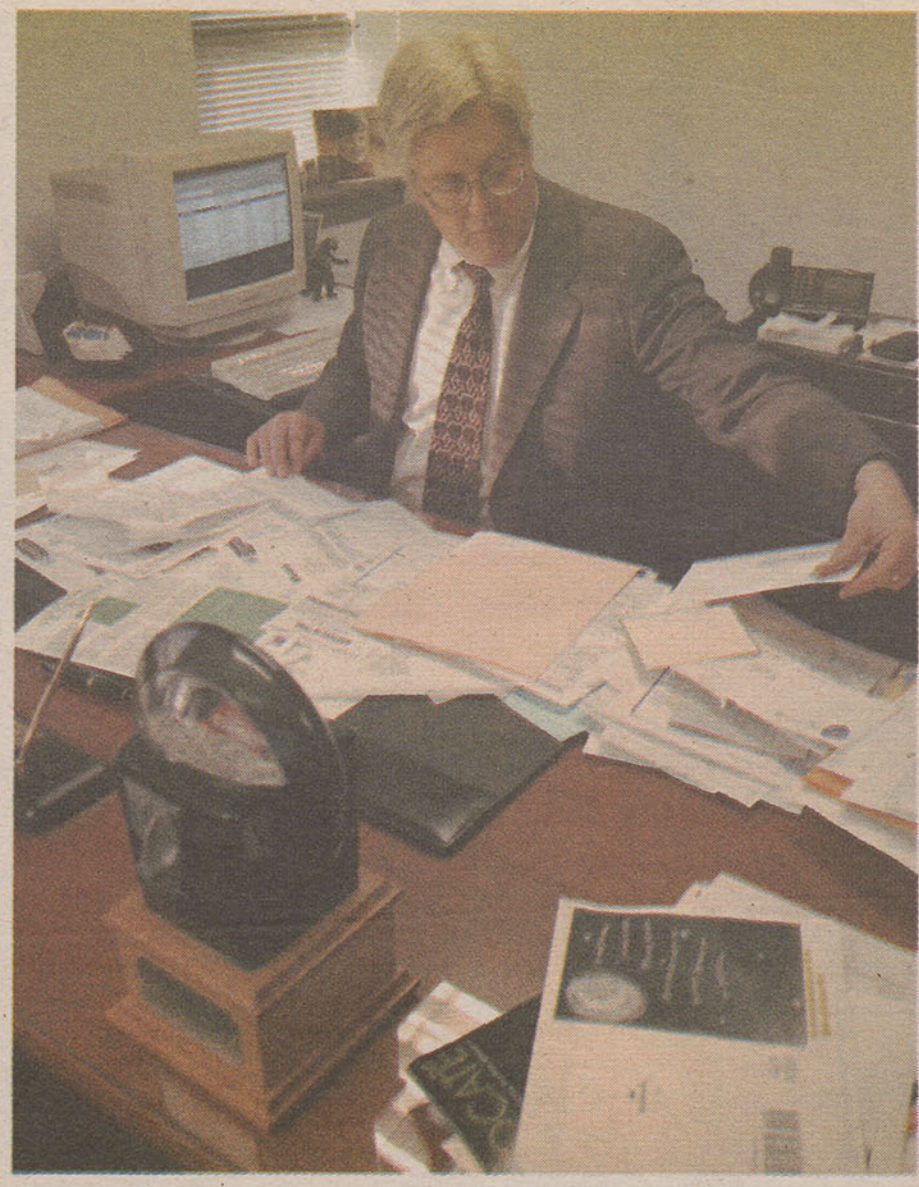

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The buck stops here: like his idol, Harry Truman, Mackie is better at bluntness than at political finesse. When an old friend told the prosecutor that he supposed that most people who committed terrible crimes were mentally ill, Mackie replied, "There are actually people in the world who are evil."

When her husband left, Mary Mackie couldn't even afford Willow Village. With Brian and his two older sisters, she moved into her mother's house on Fulmer Street in northwest Ann Arbor.

Mackie's maternal grandmother, Betty Downey, came from northern Arkansas—a part of the world that he describes as "just a big swamp." She had moved north to join her three grown children in Michigan. "She was a very strong individual," Mackie says of Grandma Downey. "All her children obeyed her. I didn't get along with her real well, but I got along with her better than anybody else. . . . My grandmother and I worked together to sell rhubarb and cherries and other stuff."

He didn't hold it against her that she would occasionally take a switch to him—and even make him go out to cut the switch from a bush. "This might be a southern thing, going out to pick the switch that's going to be used to rap you," Mackie says. "That's an art form. You don't pick one that's too thin because then you're going to get into all kinds of trouble. I thought it was clever to pick one that was very thick because it wouldn't have the whip in it. But she saw through that very quickly."

When he started school, Mackie stood out because of his southern accent. "It makes you not fit in as well," he recalls. He felt other differences between himself and his more affluent classmates. Mackie's street was poor, and most of the households were headed by single mothers. The police, and "the authorities" in general, were mistrusted. One neighbor, he remembers, was being watched by social service people who suspected that she neglected her children. She did neglect them, Mackie says—but in what he calls "an antigovernment reaction," he and other kids cleaned up her house, collecting dirty diapers to get the social workers off her back.

At Ann Arbor High School—which hadn't yet split into Pioneer and Huron—Mackie didn't belong to any one crowd but "fit in partly between the jocks and the eggheads," recalls his friend Larry Steeb, now a Whitmore Lake history teacher. Mackie remembers himself as an "incredibly skinny and insecure kid" who sought to build up both his body and his confidence by lifting weights at the former Ann

Arbor Gymkhana. But body building was considered odd in Ann Arbor High's class of '66, and that only contributed to his sense of being a loner.

His distaste for school was reflected in his grades. "The only college in the planet that would admit me was Northern," Mackie says. He recalls driving to college in Marquette "when it was twenty-eight below zero, with the wind whistling through the holes of my rusty old car."

At the time, Northern Michigan University was admitting virtually all students who applied—and then, after collecting a semester or two of tuition and room and board, flunking them out. Mackie beat the odds. He did well enough at NMU to transfer to Eastern, and did well enough there that he was accepted at the U-M as a transfer student. But the U-M interviewer struck him as arrogant, so he decided to stick with EMU, where he graduated with honors in 1971.

A lawyer's conversion

After working odd jobs for a year to save money, Mackie headed for law school at Wayne State. He was elected student president of the legal aid clinic and took on his first cases there. After getting his degree in 1975, Mackie set up a practice as a criminal defense attorney, working mostly in the Detroit area.

He saw a lot of the city's seamy side in his practice. In the Detroit courts, he recalls, Friday was "Morals Day," when he defended a lot of pimps, prostitutes, and drug addicts. He enjoyed the legal work but gradually became less enamored with his own role. A turning point came when he represented a woman who had beaten her eleven-month-old infant to death. "She wasn't charged with that—I can't tell you why," he recalls. "I represented her in Wayne County Juvenile Court, where they were going to take her three-year-old daughter away from her. My job was to do the best I could for her.

"I have to tell you, this bright, nice little girl—I don't think that below her neck she had two square inches of skin without some sort of scar. Her life was hell on earth. I won that case—if winning means that that mother got to take her child home.

"It did not give me a good feeling to win that case."

Mackie applied for a job in the Washtenaw County prosecutor's office in 1977. The prosecutor at the time—Republican Bill Delhey, dubbed the Silver Fox—took his time about hiring him. Mackie recalls that Delhey interviewed him twice but didn't show much enthusiasm. He "kept talking about these other candidates they had, and how great they were.

"I didn't hear from him for a few months," Mackie continues, "and then he called me in my apartment at eight a.m. And he said, 'You want to come in for an interview? We're interested in you and some other good candidates.'

"It kind of hit me the wrong way, and I said, 'No. I've been in twice. I have nothing new to say.' " Delhey then felt him out about whether he would accept a job if it were offered. "I said, 'If you have Blue Cross, I'll take it.' And he said, 'You're hired.' " Mackie came on board in 1978. He was twenty-nine.

In his thirteen years as an assistant prosecutor, Mackie says, he often got the "cases no one wanted to handle—rape, child sexual assaults." Other attorneys recall that Mackie's appearance was sloppy ("He always had his collar askew, his shirt wrinkled, and needed a haircut," recalls one), but that there was nothing lax about his trial work. He developed a formidable reputation, winning twenty-five murder cases in a row.

Even Ypsilanti area attorney Tom Moors, a frequent Mackie critic, praises the prosecutor's work in the courtroom. "He can go from complete and utter calm to being a comedian to being angry. He has complete control over an arsenal of emotions that a trial lawyer has to have."

Mackie's court victories were not diminished by occasional flare-ups with opposing attorneys. Once a defense lawyer complained that Mackie had characterized his client as a "scumbag." Mackie rose to object, declaring "I don't call people 'used condoms.' " The court of appeals reprimanded him but let the conviction stand.

Mackie left the prosecutor's office in 1990. In one of the few moves of his life motivated primarily by money, he spent almost two years as an investigator for the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission, gathering evidence on bad lawyers who then were summoned before a committee of their peers.

It was a disillusioning experience. "Lawyers looked out for lawyers," he says. When he learned in 1991 that Delhey was retiring, he quickly threw his hat into the ring. He defeated Chelsea attorney Terrence O'Hagan in the Democratic primary and went on to an easy victory over Republican Lynwood Noah.

After Mackie took office he replaced four assistant prosecutors. All four were white males, while the people hired to replace them included women and minorities. The ex-assistants sued, charging reverse discrimination. Two settled for relatively small sums in arbitration; two others went to trial and between them were awarded close to $200,000.

Old-timers in local politics suggest that Mackie erred by firing the men immediately, without waiting to build a case for removing them, and by declining to give his reasons for making the change. Mackie still won't publicly criticize the former assistants, but the suggestion that he might have handled the departures with more finesse makes his blood boil.

"Let me tell you something," he says. "I do have some pride. If Bill Delhey had told me, 'I'm not happy with your work,' he wouldn't have had to say another word. I would have been out of there. The thought of suing him because of my failure, or his perception that I wasn't good, would never have occurred to me. . . . My mother would have beaten me for doing something so outrageous."

The conflict had one final echo when Mackie ran for reelection in 1996. One of the fired assistants, Kirk Tabbey, ran against him on the Republican ticket. Tabbey lost but was elected as a district judge two years later. Both men say there is no lingering animosity.

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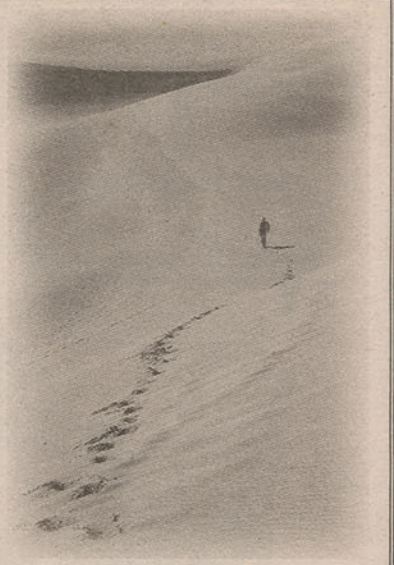

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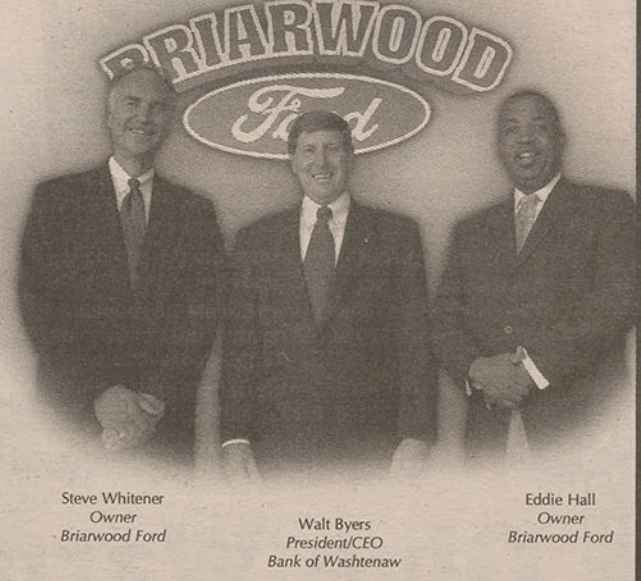

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Crime and punishment

The prosecutor's office is on the third floor of the new County Administration Building at Main and Ann. The large room holds a long mahogany desk, a glass-topped conference table, and shelves full of thick law books. Mackie has undercut this august atmosphere by scattering cheap souvenirs around the room—a plastic figurine of a Hawaiian girl wearing a lei, a crudely made model of a bridge from Venice, a couple of snow domes.

A more serious personal touch is a framed letter from Harry Truman, replying to a fan letter that Mackie sent him as a college student. There's also a replica of a parking meter, a gift from the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan after Mackie served a term as president. It's a joking reference to his habit of searching around meters for lost coins—and yes, it accepts real money. "Other people got duck hunting shirts," says Mackie, playing with the handle.

The prosecutor is wearing one of his favorite outfits: a pinstripe suit, crisply pressed oxford cloth shirt, and stylish tie. His slovenly days clearly behind him, he has a dignified look befitting an elected official who supervises a staff of sixty-four, including thirty-two assistant prosecutors.

Chief assistant prosecutor Joe Burke plays a big role in the day-to-day administration of the office—he, not Mackie, is the person lawyers usually talk to. Even so, Mackie's responsibilities usually keep him out of the courtroom. In nearly a decade as prosecutor, he's tried just four cases himself. He lost one—a complex case involving complaints of child sexual abuse at a church day care center.

Critics suggest that Mackie should be in the courtroom more often. Mackie says he would like to be, but he points out that a single trial can require hundreds of hours of preparation. When he conducted the prosecution of serial rapist Ervin Mitchell in 1995, for example, it took two weeks to present the prosecution's case. To his satisfaction, though, the jury took just five hours to convict Mitchell of first-degree murder and four counts of rape. Mackie, the *Ann Arbor News* reported, "appeared near tears" as he embraced the parents of murder victim Christine Gailbreath.

At about the same time, Mackie tried another case that attracted much less attention: the murder of Josephine Brown, an elderly Ypsilanti resident. One reason he decided to handle it personally, he recalls, was that "it bothered me that Ervin Mitchell's crimes were front-page news day after day, and the killing of a woman in a senior tower in Ypsilanti was hardly a column filler." The jury convicted Terry McClendon of first degree murder. Like Mitchell, he's now serving life without parole.

Going after domestic violence

Ask local criminal defense attorneys what they think of Mackie, and their first response is likely to be a complaint about his "inflexibility" in domestic violence cases. It's complicated, but essentially Mackie refuses to allow first offenders charged with domestic violence the option of a "deferred" sentence. Under a deferred sentence an offender is put on probation, usually with a requirement to participate in an anger management program. An offender who completes the program successfully and has no more incidents can emerge without a criminal record. But the prosecutor must agree to a deferred sentence, and Mackie's people, under his orders, almost always refuse.

More than one lawyer harbors the cynical opinion that Mackie's hard line on domestic violence is calculated to please Ann Arbor's influential feminist constituency, or as one male lawyer puts it, "nasty, angry feminists."

"Our prosecutor makes knee-jerk determinations in virtually all domestic violence cases," complains attorney Tom Moors. Under cover of anonymity, several other attorneys complain that ridiculous cases are going to trial because of the prosecutor's zeal.

"My client's lying in bed at his mother's house," one lawyer told me in exasperation. "His girlfriend hits him with an object, and he hits her. He was bleeding from a hard object, and the police arrested him." The case was subsequently dismissed in court after the girlfriend refused to testify.

In another case, a lawyer says, his client was leaving his live-in girlfriend. The girlfriend stood at the door to stop him, and he shoved her aside. She called the police, and he was arrested. Mackie's office authorized charges, but the judge dismissed the case.

More than one lawyer harbors the cynical opinion that Mackie's hard line on domestic violence is calculated to please Ann Arbor's influential feminist constituency, or as one male lawyer puts it, "nasty, angry feminists." Mackie, fumes this lawyer, "has completely abdicated his authority to Susan McGee," executive director of the local SAFE House shelter.

Mackie and McGee are close, but, not surprisingly, McGee challenges any suggestion that she dictates policy to the prosecutor. "That's ridiculous!" she snaps. "Brian takes his directions from no one."

The county is now halfway into a $10 million, five-year federal grant to increase the resources it devotes to domestic violence cases. Washtenaw County was one of

just three places in the country to receive funding, and there's no question that Mackie's reputation was crucial to the selection. Some of the grant money was used to hire counselors for victims of domestic violence, and some of it to fund five new attorney positions in the prosecutor's office. Mackie and Joe Burke, his second in command, say that having the extra staff allows them to be much more aggressive in keeping domestic violence cases from, as Burke puts it, "falling in the cracks."

Since the grant began, Burke says, dismissal rates of domestic violence charges have dropped 20 percent. Over the same time period, the proportion of offenders pleading guilty has risen from 30 percent to 44 percent.

But some attorneys charge that the grant has also increased the number of dubious cases that go to trial. Steve Adams, a county public defender based in Ypsilanti, is particularly vocal. "They won the lottery—millions of dollars they can only use for domestic violence cases!" Adams jeers. "They're bringing garbage cases!"

When I ask Mackie about Adams's comments, his expression changes from engaging playfulness to courtroom combativeness. "You know Lloyd [Powell, the county public defender] tried to fire Steve Adams for assaulting a police officer," he snaps. "An arbitrator gave him his job back. The only person he hates more than me because I'm prosecutor is Lloyd Powell." Such criticisms, he adds, represent a "wink and a nod" approach, by which domestic violence is essentially tolerated.

"I don't have any hatred for Brian Mackie, and I certainly don't have any hatred for Lloyd Powell," Adams retorts. The attorney served two years' probation for interfering with a police officer, but he says it wasn't Powell who tried to fire him.

"My view is based on the record," Adams says. Normally, he says, public defenders win only about 10 or 20 percent of their cases. "Since February I've had jury verdicts on thirteen domestic violence cases. Eleven of these were not guilty."

Mackie's aggressive pursuit of domestic violence cases led to a very public conflict between his office and Ypsilanti Township, the county's second most populous municipality. Ypsilanti Township district judge John Collins blames the rift partly on personalities—he says he had a hard time working with the assistant prosecutor assigned to domestic violence cases at the time—and partly on what he describes as the high cost of Mackie's hard-line approach. Without the option of deferred sentencing, domestic violence defendants face a criminal record even if they plead guilty. As a result, many opt to take their chances at trial—and those who go to trial frequently win, often because many women are afraid to testify against their abusers.

Fed up with the high numbers of domestic violence cases that Mackie's office was losing in court, the Ypsilanti Township board decided to prosecute first-time domestic violence offenders under a local ordinance rather than under state law. That move took Mackie's office out of the loop, making it possible for township attorneys to negotiate deferred-sentence agreements. First offenders in the township who qualify can plead guilty knowing that they will have a clean slate if they successfully complete probation.

Dennis McLain, an attorney for Ypsilanti Township, says that when the township took over, Mackie's office had averaged a dismal 35 percent conviction rate in domestic violence cases originating in the township. Since then, McLain says, the conviction rate has shot up to 89 percent.

Mackie and Burke note that their record has improved as well, citing a 55 percent conviction rate in domestic violence cases during the first six months of this year. But that's still nothing to brag about—in other cases the prosecutor's office's conviction rate is close to 90 percent.

Mackie and Burke make no apologies. Mackie says that the prosecutor's office is "sending a message" by refusing to negotiate deferred sentences. Says Burke, "It demonstrates that we have a very different philosophy than they do. It would be easier for us to have a higher conviction rate if we agreed to abandon our principles in treating domestic violence as a crime."

Holding back the tide

Mackie's been married for twenty years to Jill Beasley. When they met, Mackie was an assistant prosecutor and Beasley was a court reporter. After their marriage she went to law school; today she practices locally, mostly doing real estate and divorce cases. They're the parents of Jane, a sophomore at Northwestern University, and Sam, a ninth-grader at Pioneer. Very much a family man, Mackie usually does the cooking—"the only creative thing I do," he claims. Though he doesn't participate in Rotary or other social or service groups favored by prominent Ann Arborites, he's been a leader of a court-sponsored mentoring program for convicted juveniles. He's mentored a couple of kids himself.

Mackie makes it clear he has no plans to seek higher office. "I have the best job on earth," he says frequently. "This is where I was meant to be. I hope the voters in Washtenaw County continue to agree."

"Brian is a career prosecutor," says Marquette County prosecutor Gary Walker, who himself has been on the job for almost thirty years. Walker says that a lot of people use the job as a springboard to run for judge but that he and Mackie are among the handful who feel wedded to the work.

"Our job is to do justice," Walker says. "What Brian does is reflect the conscience of the community."

"We may be deluding ourselves as to what our value is in society," comments Midland County's prosecutor Norman Donker. "You see all the evil around you, and you're kind of holding back the tide with a broom."

Actually, the tide has been falling lately. Reflecting national trends, rates for most types of crime have declined during the almost ten years that Mackie has been in office. The prosecutor does not find that news particularly comforting. "Too many people have crowed about crime being down," he says. "It's still much too high. . . . Unfortunately, business is still very good for the public defender and the prosecutor." ■

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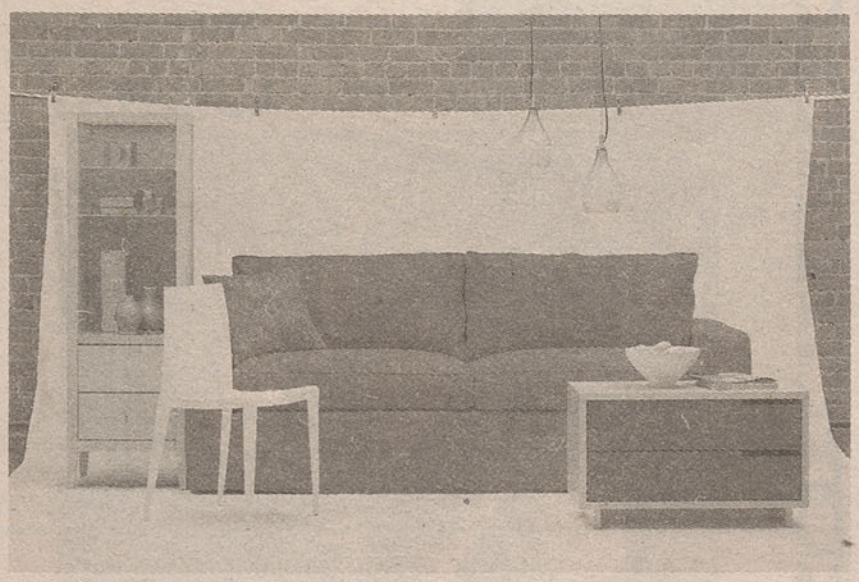

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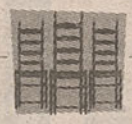

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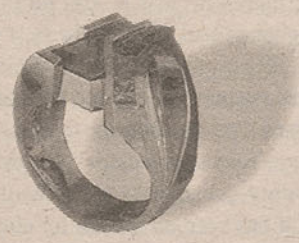

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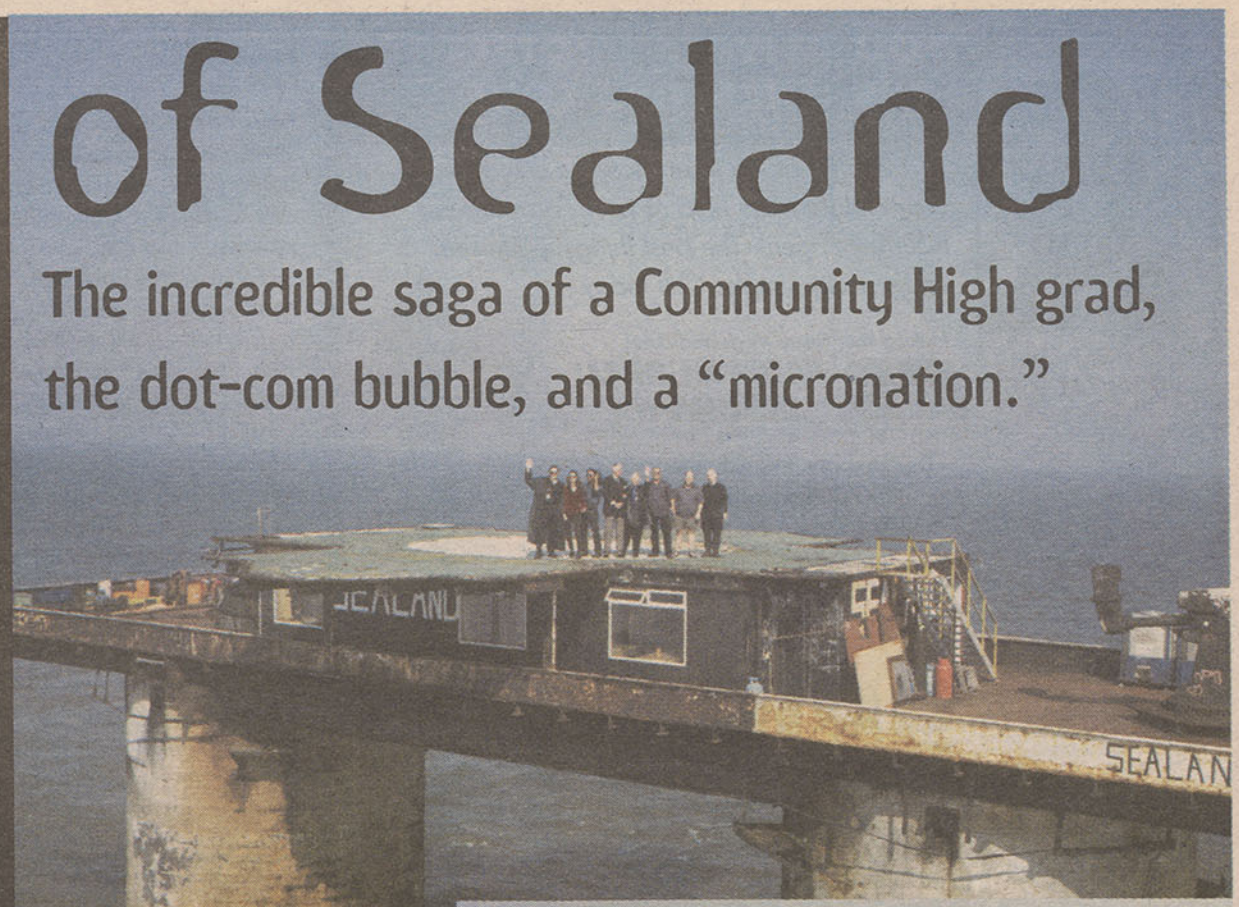

(Upper left) 1986: Sean Hastings at Community High. (Below) 2000: HavenCo takes possession of Sealand. Sean and Jo Hastings are at left, Prince Roy Bates, Ryan Lackey, and Prince Michael Bates at right.

by Erick Trickey

The lifeboat leaps into the North Sea, skipping over each wave. Six passengers, clad in scuba divers' dry suits and sprayed with salt water, stare at a tiny rectangle on the horizon. The boat passes the last buoy, leaving the British coast behind, and the destination takes shape: two immense concrete columns supporting a thin platform.

Eight miles from Harwich, the ancient port town where the *Mayflower* was built, a sixty-year-old sea fort towers over the waves, dull and menacing. The assaults of the tide have stained its gray columns brown. The cabin on the platform is dark and uninviting, its few windows fogged with grime. Between them, crude white lettering reads "Sealand."

Atop the platform a man is standing next to a strange flag; he waves and lowers a chain with a metal hook at the end. A passenger wearing a harness over his dry suit snaps the hook around a loop in the harness, and a winch pulls him thirty-some feet up to the deck.

The concrete on the platform, once painted red, is faded, cracked, and strewn with scrap metal and empty wooden cable spools. The metal parts of the deck have turned pure orange with rust. But the dark fort is surrounded by a panorama of blue-gray sea and sky, the British coast to the west, a passenger ferry sailing by to the north, and a line of freighters following a shipping channel to the east.

Those who lay claim to the fort insist that it is the world's smallest independent country. It's a pirates' hideaway on the high seas, home to two very different groups of swashbuckling dreamers longing for complete freedom.

Thirty-four years ago, an English pirate-radio operator and his family took over the sea fort and declared it the Principality of Sealand. Because the fort was outside British territorial waters, they said, it lay beyond the reach of any law but theirs. None of the world's nations recognizes Sealand as a country. But its founders have been left alone, to do as they please, ever since.

Then, last year, a young band of Internet entrepreneurs, led by an Ann Arbor native, joined the fort's longtime owners in what may be the most daring and eccentric venture to come out of the late-1990s dot-com boom. They wanted to make Sealand into the perfect "data haven"—a sanctuary for computer servers, websites, and data storage free from government regulation and subpoenas. And though the collapse of the market for Internet stocks destroyed many other entrepreneurs' dreams, HavenCo not only survived the dot-bomb, it's actually turning a profit out in the North Sea.

In the late 1990s Sean Hastings was sunning himself in the British West Indies, trying to decide on his next destination. Hastings had gone far in ten years. Raised on Steere Place, off Packard on Ann Arbor's southeast side, he'd taught his Community High math teacher about new computer systems and hung out with a crowd of conservative and libertarian students who challenged Community's liberal conventional wisdom. After graduating in 1986, he went on to Washtenaw Community College and then to the U-M. There, friend Joseph Saul remembers, he spent most of his time working on his computer and going days without sleep. Sometimes the young men practiced Japanese sword fighting with bamboo rods—on the street in Hastings's student neighborhood at 4 a.m.

"He didn't finish [college] because he was bored to death," says his mother, Janet MacDonald, a math and computer science instructor at WCC. After dropping out of college, Hastings moved around between many of the places restless young Ann Arborites go—New York City, the Bay Area, New Orleans. He rode the dot-com boom as a computer technician and consultant. "Systems architect" and "cypherpunk," he calls himself on his personal website (www.home.earthlink.net/~whysean). He adds another title: "productive member of society—real soon now, I promise!"

Cypherpunks add spy-novel intrigue to techie obsession. They believe that communication and commerce should spread over the Internet unbound by government regulation; one way of advancing that goal is to create codes too dense for law enforcement to break. In New Orleans, Hastings did his part by starting a company that designed software for sports-betting operations based in countries with lax gambling laws.

In 1997 Hastings and his wife, Jo, moved to Anguilla, a small, self-governing British territory in the Caribbean, home to only 10,000 people. Part of a small but creative crowd of expatriate entrepreneurs attracted by Anguilla's low taxes, they worked for a company that developed secure financial payment systems for use on the Internet.

Meanwhile Sean had bigger plans. In 1998, at a cryptography conference, he met Ryan Lackey, another young systems technician who'd spent some time on Anguilla. They bounced an idea around that was rapidly spreading among high-tech privacy advocates. They wanted to create a data haven "offshore"—that is, outside the reach of United States law. Anguilla wouldn't do, because some of the biggest potential customers would be websites offering gambling or pornography—and Anguilla had laws against both. Where else could they go?

Hastings soon found his answer. He got hold of the book *How to Start Your Own Country*, put out by Loompanics Unlimited, an anarchist publishing company. It describes various people's attempts to declare independence from all existing countries and found "micronations" of their own.

Most of the micronations in the book are pretty pathetic. Some people have tried to declare their house, ranch, or store an independent country. Others claimed remote is-

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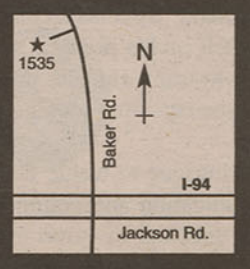

Sean of Sealand *continued*

lands or reefs where they'd never set foot. The book even includes the Conch Republic, Key West's tongue-in-cheek attempt to secede from the United States in 1982 to protest a border patrol roadblock.

Even serious attempts to create micronations have generally gone nowhere. In the late 1960s an Ayn Rand disciple with a tippy boat undertook Operation Atlantis, trying (and failing) to lay claim to various Caribbean islands. In 1972 some Americans tried to create the Republic of Minerva by dumping sand on a Pacific coral reef. That didn't work, either—the king of Tonga sent a boatload of convicts over to claim the new island for himself.

In the whole book there's only one example of a micronation that's survived and been left alone. It's featured on the cover, where Prince Roy Bates, former pirate-radio operator, and his wife, Princess Joan, stand atop their sea fort, smiling for an aerial photographer.

On September 2, 1967, Roy Bates declared Roughs Tower to be the independent Principality of Sealand. He proclaimed himself prince and absolute ruler.

Hastings had found the perfect location for his data haven, literally offshore: the Principality of Sealand.

Sealand's story starts in 1965, three years before Sean Hastings was born, when a crowd of rebel entrepreneurs decided to break the BBC's monopoly and bring commercial radio to Great Britain. They set up illegal radio stations just off the coast, some on ships, others on abandoned sea forts like Sealand, which had been built as an antiaircraft platform during World War II and had stood vacant since the 1950s.

Screaming Lord Sutch—recording artist, professional freak, and perennial joke candidate in British elections—sent his signal from a boat that sailed up and down the Thames River. Ronan O'Rahilly, a figure in Swinging London's peace-and-love crowd, started a station named Radio Caroline; it became so popular that the Beatles recorded a Christmas message for its listeners.

Then there was Radio Essex, "arguably the most amateurish of all the pirates," in one author's words. It was owned by Roy Bates, a millionaire fishing-fleet, factory, and butcher-shop-chain owner with a dashing smile, bushy eyebrows, and a stubborn disinclination to follow anyone's rules.

Bates had heard commercial radio on business trips to America, and he wanted a piece of the action. So he sailed out to the British Army's old Knock John Fort, ousted a rival pirate, and fired up an old U.S. Air Force radio beacon. He spent more than a year broadcasting Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin to the southeastern part of Essex, the seaside county on the north bank of the Thames.

But Britain cracked down, passing a new law called the Marine Offences Act and hauling the broadcasters into court. Bates decided to move his operation to Roughs Tower—another old fort off the Essex coast, this one outside Britain's territorial waters, which extended only three miles offshore. He didn't mind that Radio Caroline had gotten there first.

On Christmas Eve 1966, Bates, his fourteen-year-old son, Michael, and some friends sailed out to Roughs Tower. They climbed a rope ladder, grabbed an air rifle from one of the Radio Caroline employees, and took possession of the fortress. The next day they put their rivals ashore.

Several months of truce, standoff, and violence followed. Both the Bateses and Radio Caroline knew the fort's location could provide a valuable sanctuary from British law, so they tried to share the tower and even built a helicopter pad together. But the armistice fell apart. O'Rahilly sent men to retake the tower, and Michael Bates threw Molotov cocktails into their boats. The men jumped ship and clung to the fort's concrete columns, rope ladders, and winch cables until rescuers arrived.

Britain's newspapers loved to recount the battles just off the coast of their orderly nation. The *Times* of London quoted Roy Bates bragging that his family had warded off the invaders with a flamethrower (a story he denies now).

The British government had recently hauled Bates into court and fined him for operating Radio Essex. At first everyone thought Bates just wanted to move his station farther offshore. But he had bigger plans. They were hatched one night when he met his wife at their favorite pub.

"Darling, I've got you your own island now," he said.

"Now I'd like my own flag and palm trees, please," Joan Bates replied.

All night, the couple and their friends kicked around the idea of starting a new country on the sea fort. To their friends, it was just bar talk. But Roy Bates went home, looked through some law books, and called a lawyer friend.

"A couple weeks later he phoned me up and said, 'Well, apparently, what you've got is a first-class idea. It can be done. But of course it's impossible. You can't do it. The British government will do you in.'"

But Roy Bates is a headstrong man. At age eighteen he'd been so eager to take part in World War II that he lied about his age to join the army. He rose to the rank of major and fought his way up Italy, shaking off knife and bullet wounds, and quarreling with his commanding officers the whole way. Two decades later he was still unafraid of authority, or of a fight.

"I said, 'If you say it can't be done, that it's impossible for me to do it, I've got to do it, don't I?'"

On September 2, 1967, Bates declared Roughs Tower to be the independent Principality of Sealand. He proclaimed himself prince and absolute ruler, like the prince of Monaco before its constitution was adopted. The name Sealand reflected the grandeur of his ambitions: he dreamed of someday reclaiming land from the sea to expand his new nation.

"Ludicrous," scoffed a government spokesman. Navy boats and helicopters buzzed the tower to intimidate the Bateses, but they wouldn't budge. Officials offered to pay them to leave the tower. They refused the offer. Prime minister Harold Wilson decided not to take the fort by force, afraid someone would get killed.

A year later the Sealanders accidentally tested their sovereignty—and won. Government maintenance workers sailed close to Sealand to repair a buoy that warns boats away. Young Michael Bates was on Sealand with his sister, Penny. "They were making indecent comments to my sister," he recalled in an August interview. "I fired a couple of warning shots in the water. They went away."

Though Roy, who trained police in small arms, had a license to use the automatic pistol, Michael didn't. Father and son were hauled into court and accused of violating British weapons laws. But since the incident happened outside the three-mile territorial limit, the judge ruled he had no jurisdiction to hear the case. To the Bates family, that was all the proof they needed: Sealand had won its independence.

Joan Bates lived a comfortable life until she got her own island. "I had a house. We had plenty of money. I had housekeepers, and nannies for my children, and people to drive my car." Beautiful and blond, she worked part time as a model into her forties.

But one day in 1967 she had a fisherman take her out to Sealand so her husband could go ashore and run the family businesses. Soon she was sleeping with a Walther P38 pistol under her pillow, in case of attack.

For three decades Sealand was the Bates family's home, the ultimate fixer-upper and money pit. As a business venture, though, it was never more than a pipe dream.

"When we first came out here," says Michael Bates, "the place was derelict. There was loads of dead seagulls and cormorants lying around the place. There was no light, just candles." Scavengers had torn out the copper wiring. The family lit smelly paraffin stoves to keep warm. "It was dark, dingy, dirty, horrible."

Like a frontiersman's wife, Joan helped build the family homestead. "When you live on an island," she says, "you're having to make your own facilities and make your own comfort day by day. You're forever painting and scraping and trying to make it comfortable—make it civilized."

Over the years the Bateses put in a kitchen, windows, a generator, and electrical wiring. They say they lived on Sealand for thirty years, returning to shore only for a few weeks at a time to conduct business and buy supplies. Meanwhile they accumu-

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Sean of Sealand *continued*

lated more of a nation's official trappings: a constitution, flag, anthem, and coat of arms with the motto *"E mare libertas"*—"Out of the sea, freedom." Roy also commissioned silver coins with Joan's face on them and issued passports to friends who helped the family keep Sealand going.

Convinced that Sealand's ability to evade British law would somehow prove lucrative, they waited for the right business deal to come along. But a group of Germans they knew also saw financial promise in Sealand. In 1978 they staged a coup.

The Germans lured Roy and Joan to Austria with a business proposal. While they were gone, a helicopter swooped onto Sealand. Two German men jumped out and took Michael hostage, shutting him inside the cabin for three days without food. They reached through a window and tied his hands before letting him out, but he still tried to fight them. They had to bind his hands, elbows, knees, and ankles to subdue him. "One said in German, 'Let's shove this bastard over the side—he's too much trouble,'" Michael recalls.

A Dutch trawler pulled up, and a German lawyer came out with a revolver in his hand.

"I see you have a little gun," Michael said.

"I do, and I vill use it if I have to," the lawyer said. The men took Michael to the Netherlands and let him go.

Talking to the businessmen in Austria, Roy and Joan felt uncomfortable and suspected something was wrong. They called a friend, who told them a helicopter had been seen over Sealand. They hurried home to England. There was Michael, who'd made his way back from the Netherlands.

Father and son rounded up some friends, including a helicopter pilot who'd done stunt work in the James Bond film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. They grabbed some guns and flew to Sealand. The copter hovered low behind a passenger ferry until it reached the fort, when it rose from the water to the platform.

The Germans "started running out of the building," recalls Michael. "They were armed. We were armed."

The Sealanders jumped from the copter's legs onto the platform. Michael leaped over a water tank—and when he hit the floor, his sawed-off shotgun went off. The Germans dropped their pistols and rifles and surrendered. Furious that they'd taken his son hostage, Roy blackened some eyes and bloodied some lips.

The newspapers loved it. A reporter from the *Sun* tabloid sailed out on a tugboat, Michael remembers.

"Do you speak English?" the reporter shouted up at the fort.

"Of course we do."

"Oh, but we understood there's been a coup d'état."

"We coup-d'étated the coup d'état."

"Oh, bloody excellent! Do you have any prisoners? Can we see them?" So the Bateses made the Germans line up on the deck for the *Sun* photographer.

The Bateses soon released the men—except for one guy who was carrying a Sealand passport. Roy had given it to him a year or two earlier in exchange for legal help.

The Bateses listened politely to people's grandiose business proposals for Sealand, including one scheme for a leisure island complete with casino and whorehouse. But nothing seemed quite right.

"We tried him for treason," says Michael. They found the man guilty, fined him, and kept him prisoner for about a month, during which time they made him clean the fort, make coffee, and give them free legal advice.

An official from the West German embassy in London flew to Sealand to demand the prisoner's release. Prince Roy refused. He was still hoping to collect his fine—75,000 German marks.

Roy eventually relented, releasing his prisoner after the German threatened suicide. "He drove us bloody mad," Michael says.

After the countercoup, life on Sealand quieted down. The passenger ferries from Harwich to the Netherlands and Belgium started keeping their distance. The British House of Lords debated whether to extend Britain's territorial waters to prevent further incidents on Sealand, but took no action. The Bateses kept armed guards on Sealand at all times; one guard had his wedding ceremony there in 1979.

The family settled into a quiet day-to-day life on the fort. Michael got married in the early 1980s and stopped spending much time there. The Bateses listened politely to people's grandiose business proposals for Sealand, including one scheme for a leisure island complete with casino and whorehouse. But nothing seemed quite right. They tried to start a pirate TV station there in 1987, but that project fell through when the American who proposed it got arrested and went home.

That same year Great Britain extended its territorial waters to twelve miles from shore. But Sealand wasn't much affected. The day before the law took effect, Roy simply declared he'd extended *his* watery borders.

No nation recognizes Bates's claim. But, if nothing else, he's an unusually successful squatter, left to do as he pleased with the fort. In 1990, when a Sealand guard fired another warning shot at buoy repairmen, the British government did nothing. Now, Joan Bates says, repairmen call to ask permission before they come.

As life on Sealand became calmer, the family began to shun publicity, politely dodging most interview requests. But in 1997 Sealand made the news for the first time in years, when Andrew Cunanan, the man who killed fashion designer Gianni Versace, committed suicide in Florida. Cunanan died on a houseboat owned by a German man who claimed he was a diplomat from Sealand and drove around with Sealand diplomatic plates on his car.

Around that time Sealand passports appeared all across Europe. They were sold by the thousands to Hong Kong residents nervous about the British territory's impending transfer to China. The Bates family insisted the documents were fake—that real Sealand passports weren't for sale. Finally, in April 2000, several men in Madrid were arrested and charged with fraud for making the passports. "There's been some pretty bad people around the edges of what we do," Michael says.

Roy and Joan Bates say they lived on Sealand almost full time until a few years ago, when Joan retired to their onshore apartment, which overlooks the mouth of the Thames in the town of Westcliff-on-Sea.

The cost of maintaining Sealand had drained their finances. "We've spent several million pounds on it over the years," says Michael Bates. His parents have sold off all the companies they once owned. They used to be millionaires, he says, but not anymore.

Just in time, Sean Hastings offered them the business deal they'd always hoped for.

Hastings found the Bateses easily. In 1998 Michael, taking a step out of the family's long seclusion, had put up a Sealand website. In summer 1999 Hastings e-mailed Michael, suspecting that a family of former radio pirates would like his data haven scheme. He was right.

"I told Michael we were basically doing pirate Internet, which means doing whatever people want to do, without government restrictions," Hastings told *Wired* magazine last year. The two of them started negotiating.

Meanwhile Hastings asked his old college friend Joseph Saul for advice. He wanted to know whether Sealand had a plausible claim to independence. Saul, then a U-M law student, did some research and told Hastings that the fort's legal status was unresolved. For Hastings that was enough.

Ryan Lackey flew to England, soon followed by Hastings. The Bateses weren't sure what to think at first. The Americans seemed so young to Roy Bates; he wasn't sure they had enough experience to carry out their plan. Lackey's shaved head and combat boots shocked Michael and left him cracking jokes about how Hare Krishna robes might be more appropriate attire.

But the family was impressed with Hastings's and Lackey's technological skill—and with the free-speech ideals behind their ambition. They also had financial backing from fellow cyberlibertarians in the States—and Sealand needed cash to

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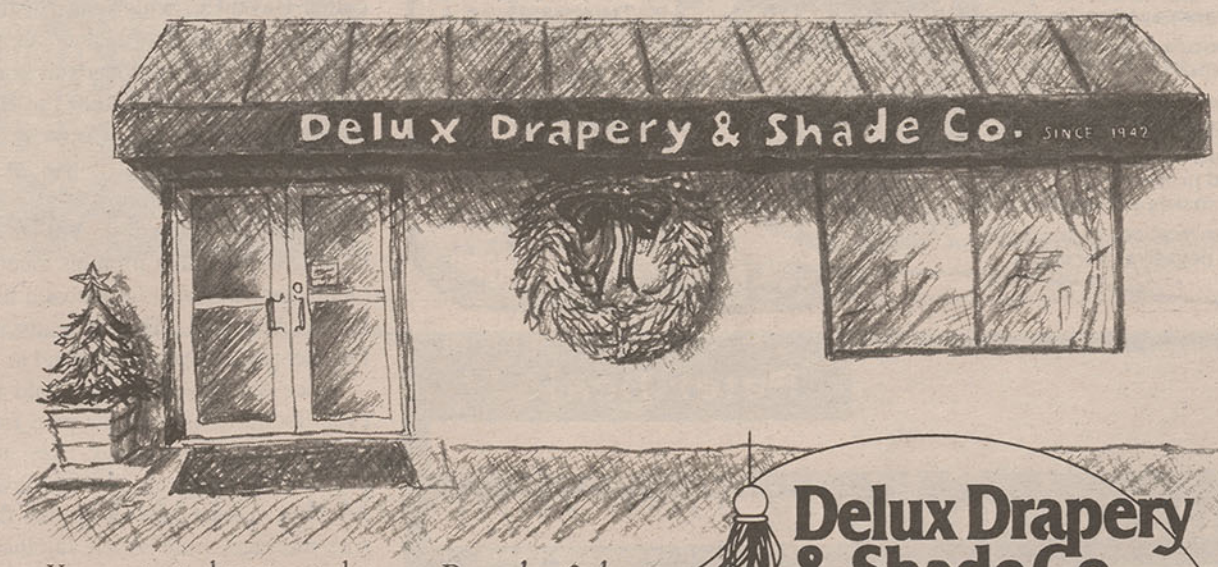

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Sean of Sealand *continued*

survive. Roy "was running out of money," Hastings told *Travel and Leisure* last year. "He could only afford to live out [on Sealand] by himself."

The Americans formed a company called HavenCo, with Sean Hastings as CEO, Lackey as chief technician, and Jo Hastings and several friends as corporate officers. In February 2000 the Bateses leased Sealand to HavenCo for a 16 percent share in the company and an undisclosed amount of cash.

Roy quickly rehired some of his old security guards, retired from his lonely vigil on the fort, and went to live with his wife on the mainland. (He'd already named Michael prince regent of Sealand in 1999.)

Once the HavenCo team told fellow cyberlibertarians about the plan for Sealand, excitement spread fast. They attracted a million dollars from idealistic investors. An e-mail group they set up was flooded with messages from people fascinated by the thought of founding a new country. One provision in the agreement with the Bateses even gave HavenCo an eventual option to buy Sealand. Hastings talked excitedly with Joseph Saul in Ann Arbor about writing a new constitution. "I think he felt [he was] creating a nation," Saul says.

Lackey moved across the Atlantic in March 2000, and Sean and Jo Hastings followed in May. The couple split their time between Sealand and an apartment in London.

Lackey tackled the serious technical problems of installing Internet servers on an artificial island in the North Sea. Meanwhile, Hastings handled publicity. "A lot of the initial press stuff was Sean's idea," Lackey says.

Hastings put Sealand back in the news in a big way. When Lackey took his first trip to the platform, a writer for *Wired* tagged along. In June the trendsetting technology magazine put Sealand on its cover. Dozens of reporters rushed to match the story. An ABC News reporter flew to Sealand by helicopter and interviewed Hastings. Looking older than his thirty-two years, and speaking in a serious tone, the ponytailed, bespectacled Hastings said he was grateful to be starting his business in a place where the government didn't put up many roadblocks to success.

All summer Hastings eagerly chatted up reporters by phone about the possibilities his new venture created. "Soon it will be impossible to trace where money is and who has money," he told the *New York Times*. He informed the *Austin Chronicle* that copyright was obsolete, since music-downloading sites like Napster could move to offshore havens like Sealand.

The attention helped Hastings raise even more money. He and Michael Bates flew across the Atlantic to charm investors. He also helped Lackey with the hard work of getting computer equipment to the fort, by helicopter and by boat and winch. They brought on new generators, added a water-purifying system, set up Internet access for the guards, and hired a cook.

But as Michael Bates watched the brash young Americans work, he grew worried.

"I have to say it was quite disorganized at the beginning," he says. "They were too involved in promoting it and the airy-fairy side of it, the political side of it, and really what they needed to do was generators and wiring." At first they asked oil companies for advice on outfitting offshore platforms; eventually they just relied on Michael for practical knowledge.

Last fall, just as his vision was being realized, Hastings stepped down as HavenCo's CEO. Repeated attempts to talk to him for this story were unsuccessful, but Michael Bates says Hastings moved back to the States to deal with some personal problems. He left the technical work to Lackey and Michael, who's now the acting CEO.

Hastings and Lackey wanted to create a data haven "offshore"—that is, outside the reach of United States law. Hastings e-mailed Michael Bates to suggest Sealand as the base for their planned "pirate Internet."

"Sean's a great ideas man," says Michael. "I suppose he got itchy feet. I don't think he's the sort of bloke who's used to the nuts and bolts, the physical side of doing it."

Age and rivets, rust and dirty windows: that's pretty much Sealand's decor. The steel platform, topped with worn concrete, is only thirty-two feet wide and 110 feet long. The cabin sits in the middle, a helicopter pad atop it. From below, the ends of the copter pad look like ugly beams supporting a decaying bridge.

The only bright, modern note is a tiny satellite dish. The dish and a microwave link provide HavenCo's connection to the Internet. At the platform's far end sit big barrels of diesel fuel, which power an old, growling generator.

The kitchen inside the cabin looks almost homey. A bowl of clementines and a radio playing BBC Radio One rest on a table by the window. The cupboards are filled with nonperishable foods—soup, sardines—in case bad weather or a hostile siege keeps supply boats away. A pest strip covered with flies sits near two pairs of binoculars. Next to the phone, the coast guard's number is scrawled on the wall.

Next door is a shabby living room with sagging ceiling tiles and two tattered couches. The black, red, and white flag of Sealand is draped across the wall behind the TV. Books, mostly cheap genre fiction, line another wall. Down the hall, in the security chief's cabin, a pump-action shotgun lies next to the window.

"It's all right if you want to escape

from something," says Andy, a security guard serving his first stint on Sealand. He should know; caught in a dispute with the government and his ex-employer over disability payments, he's working under the table and won't give his last name.

When he's not checking on the generators or helping fix the place up, Andy surfs the Internet, reads mountain-bike magazines, chats on his cell phone, and watches TV. He's been on Sealand a week, and he's already bored. "I don't think I'd do it full time. There's no way I could live here day in, day out."

Beneath the platform, the concrete columns are each divided into seven windowless floors, the lower levels underwater. During World War II more than a hundred marines and sailors lived here; some reportedly went crazy. Getting to the lower floors means climbing down vertigo-inducing ladders whose wooden steps are smooth and slippery from sixty years of wear. Some rooms are strewn with tools and scrap metal. At the bottom of the north tower, the Bateses installed a barred door, creating a jail—in case they have "somebody freak out or something," Michael Bates explains.

Ryan Lackey, HavenCo's chief technical officer, lives in three dark rooms in the north tower furnished in classic dorm style: a futon on the floor, a blue hippieish tapestry brightening the wall. He goes to work every day in the other tower, where HavenCo's money has turned one floor into a very modern-looking tech-company office, with a horseshoe-shaped table circling the room, a futuristic lamp, and four computer workstations on the table. Most of the company's servers are on the sealed-off level below. Gurgling, bubbling sounds leak from behind the wall: the sound of the North Sea battering the concrete.

Lackey, dressed all in black and wearing combat boots, looks like a stereotypical tech geek. Awkward and strangely unsmiling, he somehow manages to be shy and babbly at the same time.

HavenCo is doing fine, he says. Unlike many dot-coms, it's turning an operating profit. It hasn't made back the $2 million investment, but it's taking in more money, month by month, than it's paying in expenses.

HavenCo's several dozen clients pay to have servers set up on regulation-free Sealand. On-line gambling operations, prohibited in many countries, are among the customers. So are companies who simply don't want their e-mail subpoenaed. Last year's news accounts breathlessly worried that HavenCo would become a haven for criminals, but Lackey says its services are attractive to legitimate companies fearing litigation. After all, Bill Gates's e-mail was subpoenaed in the Microsoft antitrust case.

Sealand's isolation doesn't bother Lackey: "There's few distractions. I get lots of work done." The worst part is helping lug the 400-pound fuel barrels. Other than that, it's like being home. If he were in the States, he says, "I'd be sitting in my apartment, working."

Lackey does attend computer security conferences every few weeks, commuting by boat or chartered helicopter. And living on Sealand hasn't hurt his romantic life. In

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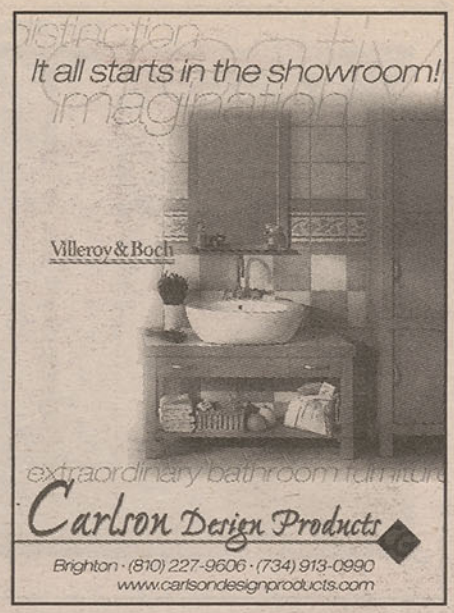

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Sean of Sealand *continued*

a few days, he says, an ex-girlfriend and a "possible future girlfriend" are taking a boat trip together to visit him.

Back in the living room, Michael Bates tells Sealand stories over tuna-and-corn sandwiches and coffee. Stocky and gap-toothed, wearing a striped shirt and shorts, he seems like a regular middle-class British dad as he fends off pleas for attention from his ten-year-old daughter—until the talk turns to throwing Molotov cocktails at the men from Radio Caroline, and another incident when he stared down a British naval helicopter while holding an automatic pistol.

Even today, Michael admits, Sealand's defenses include arms that violate Britain's strict weapons laws (he won't give specifics). In England he drives an SUV with a very un-British bumper sticker: "Fight crime—shoot back."

The Bateses are Britain's ultimate libertarians. Michael says his father always hoped Sealand's edge-of-the-world legal status would attract a lucrative business venture, but he himself has another motivation.

"Ever since we found out that an Englishman's home isn't really his castle, [Sealand] became more of an interesting idea," Michael says. "Anybody can enter an Englishman's home these days. If a burglar comes in and you shoot him, you're wrong. Customs and excise and police can pretty much enter your house. It's not his bit of territory anymore."

Sealand provides that bit of totally autonomous territory. The Bateses claim dual citizenship—but even as they call themselves patriotic Brits, they chafe at modern Britain's heavy regulations.

Michael complains about the security-camera craze that swept through England in the 1990s. Today cameras not only guard against Irish radicals' bombs but also catch highway speeders and even peer at guests in quaint English bed-and-breakfasts. "It's Big Brother, isn't it?" he says.

Roy, the old soldier and proud Tory, can't even single out an example of the overregulation he so hates. "Everything," he says with an all-encompassing wave of his hand.

In retirement, Roy and Joan live peacefully by the sea in a bright apartment filled with Sealand memorabilia: a copy of their nation's coat of arms; a political cartoon showing the family peering down from Sealand, holding guns; a photo of Roy, looking dashing and confident, with Joan leaning lovingly on his arm as a helicopter lands behind them.

Today, at eighty, Roy is quiet and slow, a bit hard of hearing, and prone to gazing out the window at the sea. But as Joan, seventy-two, tells the family's story, she's as swept up in his romantic exploits as ever. "He's the sort of man [that] when he walks into the room—as they said about John Wayne—he clanks. Everybody knows he's there."

If there's such a thing as a British cowboy, it's Roy Bates: a daring frontiersman, but reserved in conversation and prone to

understatement. Asked how he'd like his work on Sealand to be remembered, he says only, "As an achievement." Why did he start his own country? It was "a challenge."

Finally, asked whether Sealand is a symbol, he opens up a bit.

"I think it's old-fashioned British. Britain built the biggest empire the world's ever seen. They did it by idiots like me going out, and claiming it, and doing it."

ERICK TRICKEY

Roy and Joan Bates leased Sealand to Sean Hastings and his partners for one-sixth of the company plus an undisclosed amount of cash. Despite the dot-com bust, they remain cautiously optimistic about the old fort's future as a global "data haven."

Roy and Joan are now writing their life stories, while Michael fields calls from producers who'd like to make a Sealand movie.

The Bateses haven't stopped tilting at windmills; decades after they first got the idea, they still talk about making their little nation bigger by building huge dams to reclaim land around the fort. All they need, they say, is an investor. "It's very easily done," Joan insists. "The Dutch do it all the time."

Joan signs her checks "Joan of Sealand," but that's as far as the couple's royal pretensions go. Occasionally, they say, they've used their Sealand passports when they travel, but their British passports are less bother.

Today, Sealand still maintains peaceful, ill-defined coexistence with the United Kingdom. After HavenCo hit the news, the British Home Office issued statements saying that Britain doesn't recognize Sealand and that the fort is in British waters. The harbor police from Harwich patrol near the fort—Joan has even called them herself when suspicious boats have lingered near Sealand.

Last year a British judge declared that Sealand is part of Britain. The case was brought by a would-be radio pirate, Paul John Lilburne-Byford, who's carried a grudge against the Bateses for more than a decade. Lilburne-Byford claims he tried to buy a boat from Allan Weiner, who briefly operated a pirate AM station off Long Island in 1987. The deal went sour—but Lilburne-Byford's lawsuit stalled because Weiner claimed the boat was registered to Sealand. Roy Bates says that he turned down Weiner's request to fly a Sealand flag of convenience. Still, Lilburne-Byford decided that to win his suit, he had to get a judge to rule against Sealand.

After the judge's decision, however, Michael Bates defiantly told a British newspaper that the family sticks by its claim. And law enforcement is still leaving Sealand alone. "There's not been a British official on here in thirty-five years," Michael brags.

Meanwhile, though one dot-com after another has died in the economic downturn, HavenCo still operates inside Sealand's south column. The Bateses and Ryan Lackey are cautiously optimistic about its future. "It's [gone] a bit slower than we hoped," admits Roy. But with tech companies suffering worldwide, he and his family don't blame their young American partners.

"We have full confidence in them," Joan says.

"Sean's a great ideas man," says Michael Bates. "I suppose he got itchy feet. I don't think he's the sort of bloke who's used to the nuts and bolts, the physical side of doing it."

Lackey says the dot-bomb hasn't hurt HavenCo as badly as it has other start-ups. Offshore companies attract a special kind of investor and client, he says—pro-liberty, no-tax types, whose interest stays high even when the economy sags. Now that HavenCo is established and profitable, he says, word of mouth keeps bringing in more clients.

And as Sean Hastings's daring outpost of cyberliberty survives and maybe even prospers inside Sealand, Hastings himself is looking for his next big thing. He and his wife are working as computer consultants in New York City. They're still partners in HavenCo, though not involved in day-to-day operations. Meanwhile, Hastings has been talking to his friend Joseph Saul, looking for advice on some new business plans. None of them involve nation-states, Saul says—but "God knows, he may come up with another cool idea." ■

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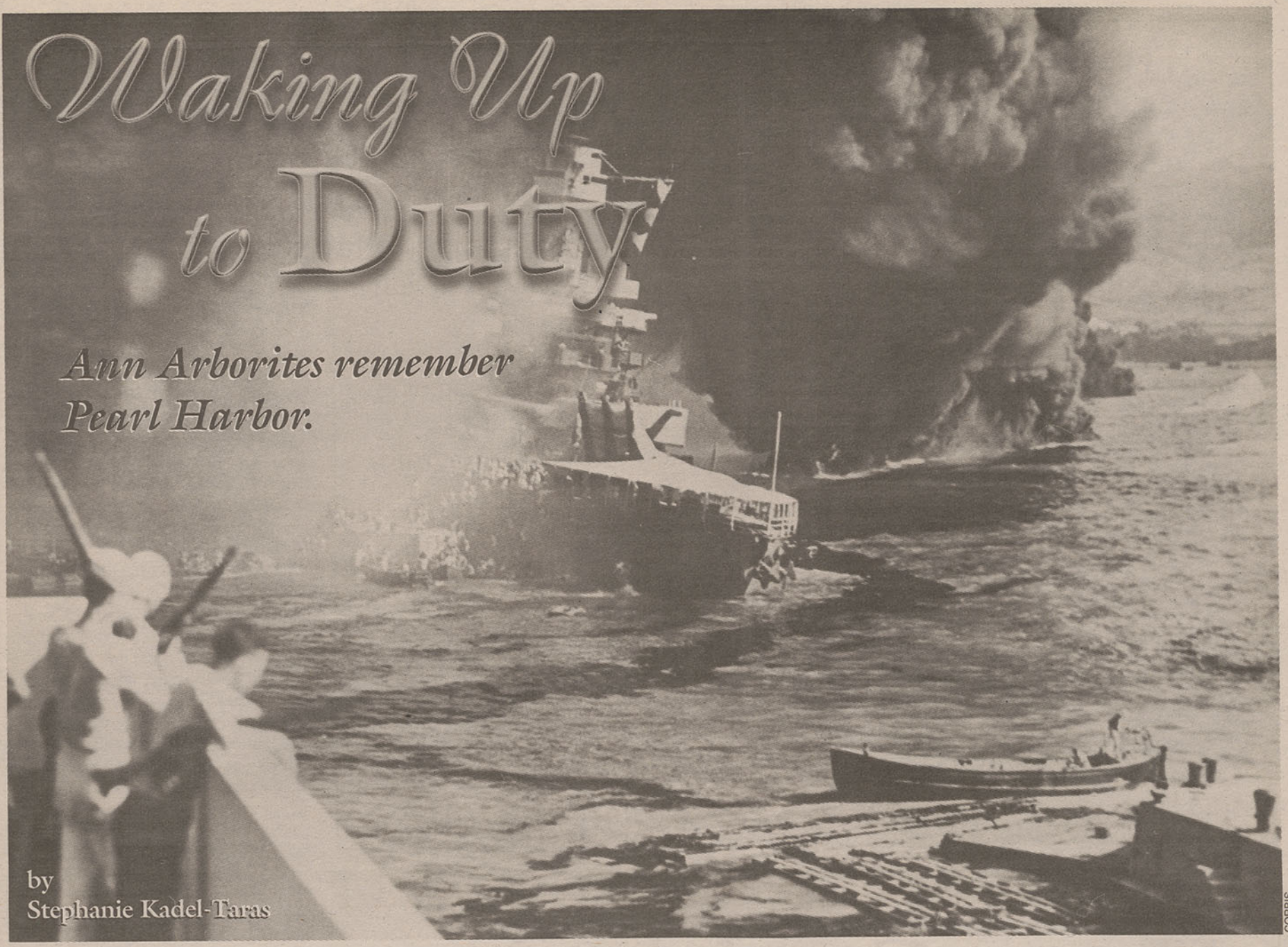


CORBIS

by
Stephanie Kadel-Taras

When Japanese pilots bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, sixty years ago this month, Dorie Bable was fourteen years old and living at Saline Valley Farms. "I was in the cow barn," she remembers, "playing with the cats and generally making a pest of myself." She heard the adults at the cooperative farm talking about how Pearl Harbor had been attacked, and she could tell by the tone of their voices that "something wasn't good." But she had no idea where the bombs had fallen. "I thought Pearl Harbor was someplace where you got pearls."

Bob Matheson was a ten-year-old in Detroit, playing toy soldiers at a friend's house, when he heard that "something's happened in Hawaii." He went home for Sunday dinner and asked his parents where Hawaii was. They wondered why he wanted to know, so he told them what he'd heard. "They just brushed it aside," he remembers, "like it was no big deal."

Bill Carter got the opposite impression. He was a senior at Detroit's Eastern High in 1941. After church that Sunday he dropped by the minister's house, where he and the minister's daughter were writing a play to be performed at church. He had eyes for the girl. "It was a way of ingratiating myself with her family," he laughs. The minister's wife turned on the radio while she was cooking dinner, and they all heard the news. The minister, a World War I veteran, said, "Our world is going to be different from now on." Carter remembers, "Suddenly, this play I was writing didn't seem as important. I felt, 'I shouldn't be here. I should be home with my family. My father would know where we go from here.'"

Most Ann Arborites who remember Pearl Harbor were children in 1941, like Bable and Matheson, or young adults like Carter, just starting out in life. Few of them had the experience to know what to make of the news they heard on the radio or from newspapers. And they weren't exposed to dramatic images that would have made it seem more real. "We never knew how bad it was," several of them told me.

Even the newsreels they saw at movie theaters in the ensuing weeks didn't show much of the devastation. Aside from a handful of eyewitnesses, Americans never saw the nearly 200 Japanese torpedo- and dive-bombers buzzing low over the Oahu coast. They didn't see the bomb that exploded on the *Arizona,* engulfing the battleship in flames and immediately sinking it, killing 1,100 men. They didn't see the hundreds of sailors treading water in the harbor, surrounded by burning ships. Hearing about Pearl Harbor on the radio, I was told, was not like seeing skyscrapers crumble on live television.

Given their limited knowledge and lack of experience with war, young people took cues from the adults around them about how to feel and how to act, and they filtered the news through their own priorities. But as the war became a way of life for 1940s America, young people took on some of the most important roles—and grew up along the way.

A kid's understanding

Tom Overmire was fifteen and sitting in his grandmother's parlor in Indiana that fateful Sunday afternoon, listening to the radio with his family. When he heard the news, his first thought was of a trip he'd taken to Canada a few months before—he'd been shocked to see that Canadians paid 30¢ a gallon for gasoline. He knew that Canada was already fighting, and he remembers thinking, "This is what war means. Gas prices are exorbitant."

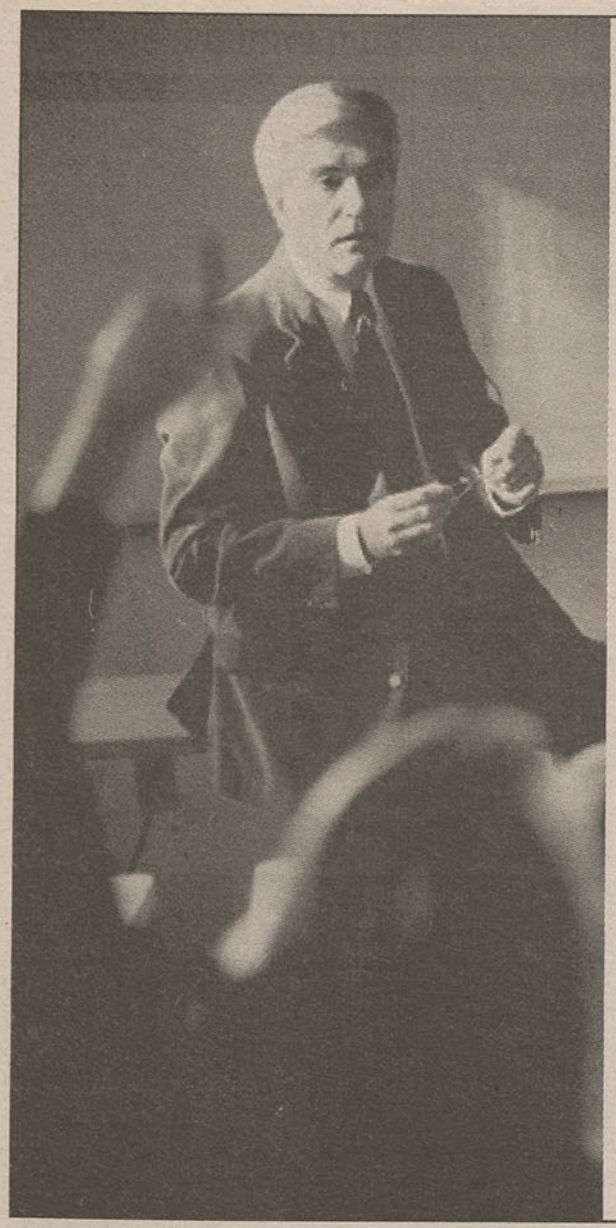
Joan Overmire, Tom's wife, was in seventh grade in 1941. Her family, too, went to her grandmother's home for Sunday dinner—but she didn't hear the news there, because her grandmother observed the sabbath strictly. "You didn't play the radio on Sunday," Joan recalls. "You didn't play cards on Sunday."

Finally, Monday morning, her mother turned on the radio and Joan's family heard about the attack. "We had a special assembly at school to hear the president's radio address," she remembers. The concept of "a date which will live in infamy" was hard for her to grasp—"As a kid, I didn't process it the same way," she says—but she remembers adults being "somber and sober."

Betty Wurtz was eleven years old in 1941, living in a tiny apartment in Boston with her parents and sister. They had just moved there from Chicago so her father, a doctor, could take a medical board examination in January. That morning, while her father was preparing to go to the library, her mother picked up the paper from the doorstep and saw the headlines. Betty's father immediately went to call his father, a prominent physician with his own hospital in Chicago. His father told him that the country would surely declare war and he should come back to Chicago right away and forget about the exam.

Wurtz's mother got angry at the idea of having to move again when they'd just spent so much money getting to Boston and they hadn't even done what they'd come for. "My parents got into an argument," she remembers. "And I just thought, 'Why are they fighting over somebody bombing something so far away?'"

Back in Saline, Dorie Bable soon learned that Pearl Harbor was part of the United States—and realized that the war she'd been hearing about was hitting closer to home. The fighting had been under way in Europe for two years, and her British-born family followed the conflict closely.



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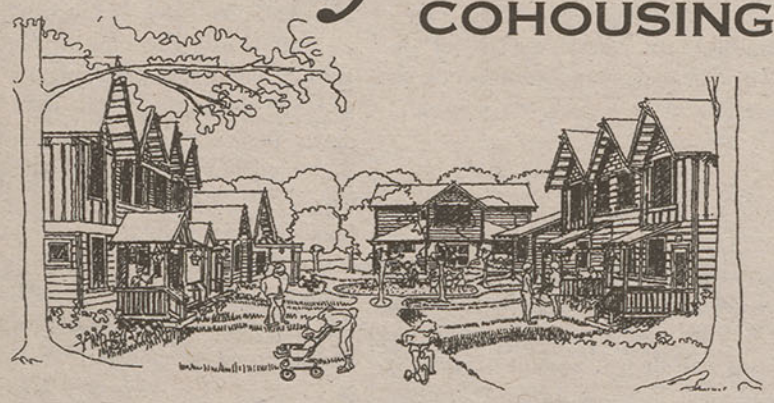

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"I remember my parents were already listening to the radio every night and being upset," she says. They had family members in Europe who had died, and a cousin who was a prisoner of war in Poland. An aunt in England had lost three homes to bombs. "So war was very real to me before it ever touched America," Bable reflects. "But I was sad that it had extended this far."

Eager to join

Bob Matheson remembers that as Americans began fighting, the press coverage in Detroit changed. The newspaper used to run a back page with photographs of local happenings, and Matheson, still a youngster, liked to look for those pictures. "But during the war, they'd put in pictures of local kids who had died. And that ticked me off, because my pictures weren't there. Wasn't that stupid?" says the seventy-year-old now.

Young boys like Matheson may have had difficulty grasping the reality of war, but they soon became intimately familiar with its fictionalized images. Some remember trading "war cards," which resembled baseball cards but featured drawings of guns and battle scenes. "The bloodier the better," one remembers of his fascination. They also read dime-store novels about the Flying Aces and Red Baron of the Great War, and they played trench warfare with their toy soldiers.

When they were old enough, many young men jumped at the chance to go to war. "I was eager to join up," recalls Frank Daly. He was listening to a pro football game on the radio on December 7, and the broadcast was interrupted to announce the Pearl Harbor attack. He was seventeen, and by July he was in the Army Air Force, which he chose after watching a pilot in a Hollywood movie. "I remember him walking off into the sunset," Daly says. "I was stupid about war."

At twenty-one, Betty Wurtz's husband, Bob, was already in the Army Air Force when Pearl Harbor was attacked. "I had enlisted a few months earlier, because I had expected this," he says. He was stationed in Scottsfield, Illinois. "We had just moved into new barracks that morning, and everyone was just killing time"—making beds, writing letters. Then someone came in with a radio and said the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor.

Did Wurtz understand that the attack meant he was going to war? "Hell, yes!" he says. "That's what I was there for." He remembers another soldier who heard the news and asked, "Does that mean we won't get home for Christmas?" Wurtz wouldn't see his home again for two years, and he wouldn't get home for good until November 1945.

A few Indiana Christmases passed before Tom Overmire was old enough to go to war. Then, in 1944, he was drafted into the army, sped through basic training, and shipped over to Europe. He got so seasick on the way that he wrote his family he'd have to stay over there, because he was never going to cross the ocean again. By the time he got to Czechoslovakia, the war

in Europe was ending, and he never saw any action. "But it comes home to you when you're in a war zone," he says. Seeing buildings shelled to rubble and "a body or two" was altogether different from worrying about the price of a gallon of gas. Then he began talking to Americans who'd been held as prisoners of war by the Germans. One day, he was eating his C rations—a cold can of hot dogs and beans—and he turned to a recently freed POW and complained about the taste. "We haven't had much of anything," the other young man replied. "I felt bad about that," Overmire recalls, "and I gave him my food."

No longer courting the minister's daughter, Bill Carter volunteered for the merchant marine in 1943 and trained as a radio officer. He sailed in the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the South Pacific, carrying coal, construction equipment, and even German prisoners of war between Europe, the United States, and the Philippines. Although merchant mariners were technically still civilians, they suffered a higher percentage of casualties than any other service during the war. Fortunately Bill's ships were never attacked, but he did help deliver a shipload of 500-pound aerial bombs from Belgium to Texas. "That was kinda scary," he remembers.

Carter decided to join the merchant marine because, he says, "I had always been kind of a pacifist. I was reluctant to be in a position to have to kill somebody." While he knew "we had to do what we had to do," he worried about the tendency to demonize the enemy. "I always felt maybe they were as reluctant warriors as we were." Of course, he adds, "that was before most of us had any idea how awful the Germans turned out to be."

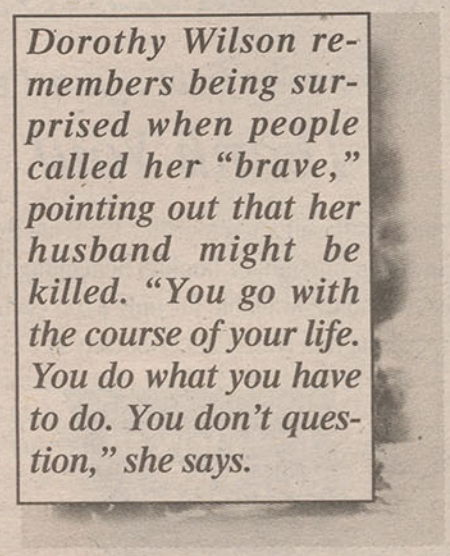
Duty on the home front

Things changed at Saline Valley Farms after the war began. While some conscientious objectors were assigned to farm work during the war, many of the farm's own young men joined the service, leaving Dorie Bable and her girlfriends with new responsibilities, such as washing the delivery trucks. "You just did the daily chores, whatever they were," she says. "We all worked." Thanks to gas rationing, she says, "we rode a lot more horseback" and walked into town to do errands. "And everyone saved everything," she remembers, including bacon grease, soap, and tinfoil.

Bable had new worries as well. In addition to her relatives caught up in the war in Europe, three of her American cousins joined the service. (Two were wounded in Normandy, but all three eventually made it back home.)

Joan Overmire's brother graduated from high school in 1942, she recalls, and "off he went." Her mother took a job in a parachute factory, and her sister became a Western Union bicycle messenger. So the responsibilities of the house fell on Joan's young shoulders: "I learned to cook and wash and take care of the one cow." She felt the lack of gas and tires that prevented her and her teenage friends from driving, and by her senior year, she says, "half of the fellows in my school had already gone into the service." It was disheartening, she says now, "but you could not afford to let yourself down. You had to stay with it, because you didn't want to create another problem."

When Betty Wurtz's family returned to Chicago, her father joined the staff at his father's hospital, which was essentially expropriated by the government to treat wounded soldiers. Betty says she and her sister "were very conscious of the hospital. There were so many patients they had beds set up in the hall. The men seemed so young to be shot up. I always thought that was a horrible thing to be so young and lose a leg or an arm." Her father never did get back to Boston for that board exam. In fact, he worked at his father's hospital for the rest of his life.



Dorothy Wilson remembers being surprised when people called her "brave," pointing out that her husband might be killed. "You go with the course of your life. You do what you have to do. You don't question," she says.

Dorothy Wilson's life also took unexpected turns during the war. She was twenty-four and a new mother in Dearborn when she and her husband, Russell, heard the news about Pearl Harbor. "I have to mention our abysmal ignorance and insensitivity to the national and international scene," she says now. "We thought we lived an enchanted life. Well, think again."

Her first thoughts were about their personal affairs. "I remember resenting my father advising my young husband to go to war." But, she says, "my man went to war in 'forty-two." He joined the navy, and Dorothy eventually moved to Brooklyn, living with other navy wives, learning to cook with mutton (which cost fewer ration points than beef), and waiting for the ships' return to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. "When the men came in every six weeks, we burned up that town," she remembers.

Wilson also remembers being surprised when people called her "brave," pointing out that her husband might be killed. "I didn't think about it," she remembers. "You go with the course of life. You do what you have to do. You don't question."

Fortunately, Russell Wilson did make it back alive, though the war left him with a permanent hearing disability—he served on a destroyer escort and happened to be passing by a gun when it fired. He and Dorothy moved to Ann Arbor and raised five children together; Dorothy then taught elementary school for twenty-three years.

Along with Pearl Harbor, one thing Dorothy will never forget is celebrating in Times Square on V-E Day. "We stood shoulder to shoulder with strangers," she remembers, "screaming our heads off. What a scene. What a scene!" ■

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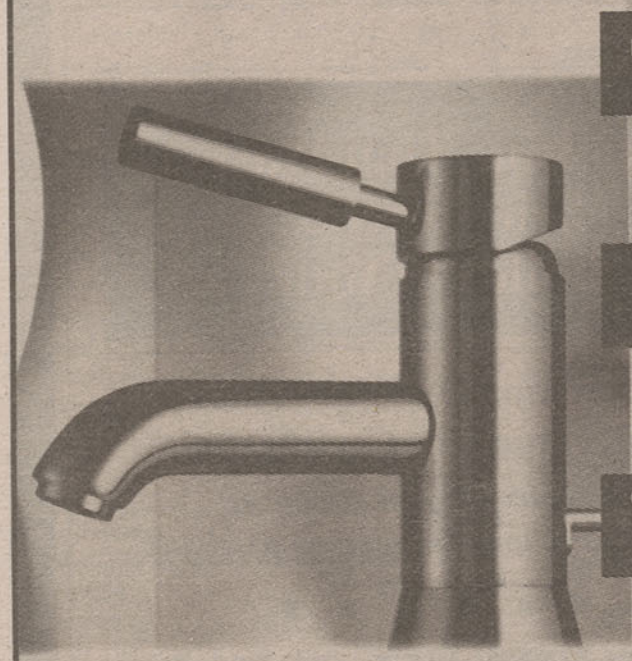
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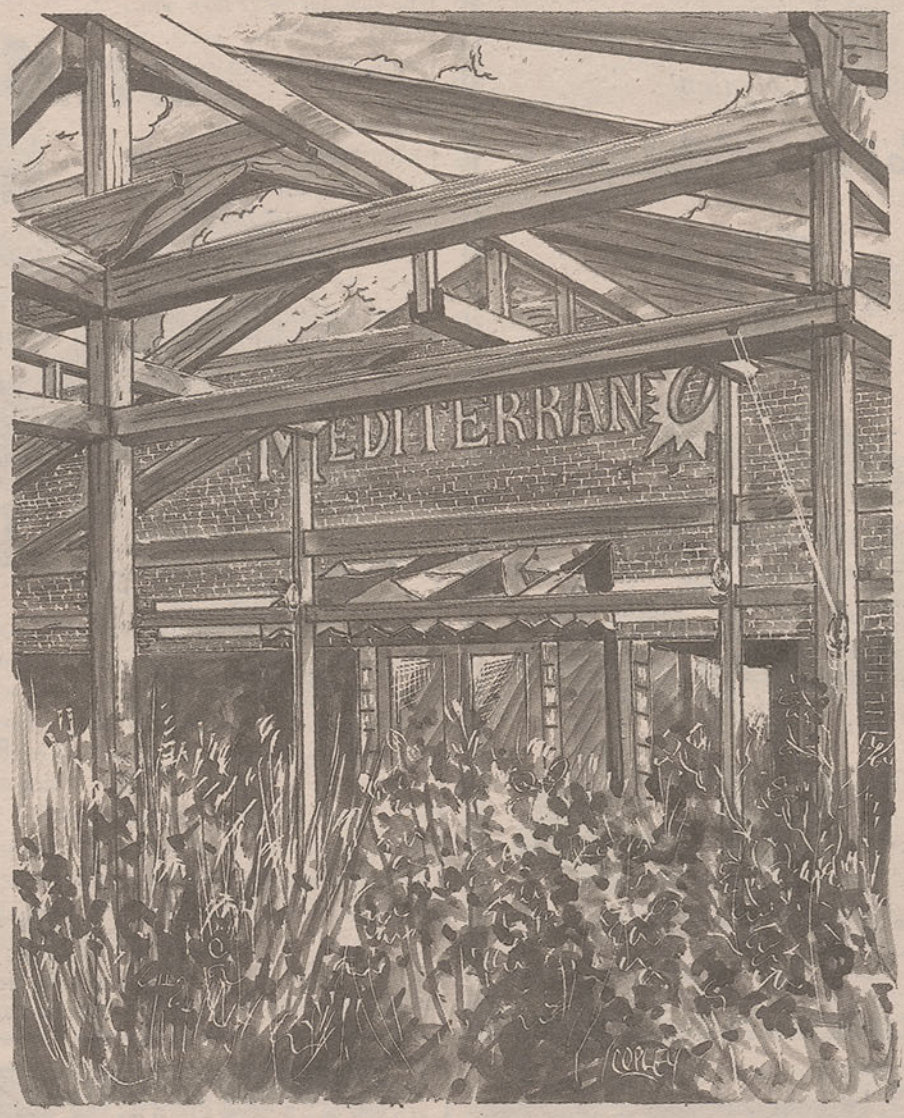
Aegean respite



JOHN COPLEY

When I was in third grade, the word that whittled down our numbers in a spelling bee until only one person was left standing was *Mediterranean.* It left quite an impression on me—enough so that every time I drove by Mediterrano, I was tempted to run inside and tell somebody to check a dictionary.

Childhood traumas aside, the restaurant's name tips you off to its cuisine: the four-page menu ranges around the Mediterranean Sea from Spain, Italy, and southern France to North Africa. The emphasis, though, is definitely Greek. Owner John Roumanis is a native of the land of tavernas and azure sea. His family still lives near Sparta, producing olive oil under the Mediterrano label—when I talked to him in early November, he was waiting for a new shipment.

With three visits under my belt, the dishes that jolt my taste buds' memories are the *mezes* (Greece's tapas). A prime example is the salmon carpaccio ($7.95). At first sight it could be mistaken for smoked salmon, but the flavor and texture are quite different—it's cured with lemons, sea salt, sugar, and tequila, pan seared, and sliced thin.

Tortillitas de camarones ($6.95), three shrimp cakes spiced with cilantro and serrano chilies and seared, are delicate morsels. The *octapodi riganato* ($7.95) brought back memories of a Greek vacation and our favorite quayside restaurant on the island of Lemnos. The octopus is poached in a marinade of red wine, capers, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, leaving the meat tender and flavorful—the true test of any octopus dish. The calamari ($6.95), on the other hand, are pleasantly chewy; they come with a sumptuous side of caper aioli for dipping.

Grilled portobello and Halloumi cheese ($7.95) is one of the best vegetarian hors d'oeuvres I've tried lately. The cheese, an import from Cyprus, can actually be grilled like a steak without turning into a blob, and the roasted red pepper coulis, pesto, and toasted pine nuts are spunky accompaniments. The spanakopita ($6.75), feta cheese and spinach wrapped and baked in phyllo dough, is the best I've ever tasted (please don't tell my Greek mother-in-law). If you want to sample your choice of three cold mezes, try the combination appetizer ($12.75), an excellent value.

While you wait, crusty country bread is served with *taramasalata,* a fish-egg puree. The saltiness of the roe has been cut down with just enough mashed potato—you'll find yourself asking for more.

Among the plates I would be pleased to try again is the chicken *avgolemono* ($13.95), chicken breast stuffed with spinach, feta cheese, scallions, and dill, baked, and served with avgolemono, a lemon-egg sauce. It was cooked to perfection. The French roasted chicken ($14.95), served over roasted potatoes and fresh vegetables, is quietly enhanced with a lemon-garlic sauce.

My applause was more muted in subsequent visits. I liked the butternut squash ravioli ($13.95) at first bite but eventually felt overwhelmed by the caramelized onions. The vegetable *burec* ($10.95), a phyllo dough concoction stuffed with spinach, mushrooms, artichoke hearts, garbanzo beans, olives, and peppers, was an overload of flavors with nothing holding them together. You can order the paella valenciana ($21.95) on the spot (serious Spanish restaurants usually require advance notice). Though not up to the standards of coastal Spain, it was flavorful and moist—just be sure you like saffron before ordering it.

Service started out great but faltered at the end. Twice we were presented with incorrect bills. Both times we were left to sort out the mess. The first time, our server simply looked at us with owl eyes and a pasted smile, said "Sorry about that," and disappeared for fifteen minutes. Server number three proved to be a gem, constantly refilling water and appearing out of nowhere when we needed something.

Desserts are numerous, but we managed to try only tiramisu and lemon mist torte. Both were pleasant but not particularly memorable. I later learned that only the cheesecakes are made in house; next time, I'll try either the turtle cheesecake or the "two-timing" chocolate cheesecake. Most desserts cost $5.50.

The restaurant is an appealing place, with its murals, Grecian urns, and Roman columns, and a cheery bar canopy that transports you somewhere warm and sunny. Better yet, when weather is favorable, there is alfresco dining under a soaring gazebo so encased in flowering geraniums and shrubbery that you'll forget you are on the edge of a parking lot.

—Elizabeth Méricas

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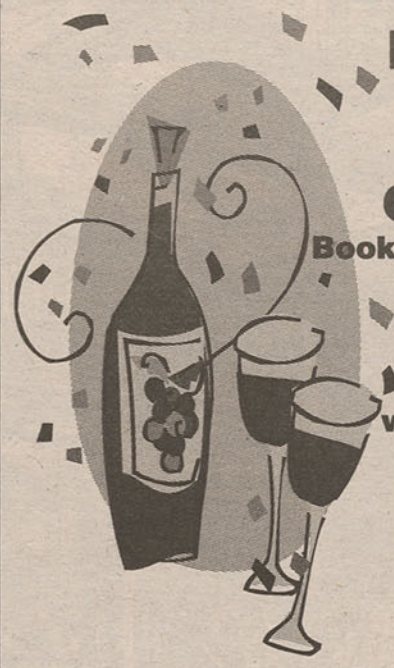

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JOHN COPLEY

day and Sunday mornings eating breakfast at the Northside Grill. The small dining room with its squeezed-in tables gets downright claustrophobic around brunch time, with a mob waiting in the vestibule and spilling out onto the sidewalk.

Coffee ($1.09) is served in those heavy brown diner mugs that are a hallmark of good breakfast places, and the staff keeps the mugs well filled. You can even get coffee while waiting for a table: the staff sets a Thermos and foam cups outside for waiting patrons. The espresso ($1.65) and cappuccino ($2.19) are appropriately strong, requiring lots of sugar.

Once our party was seated, my teenage nephew zeroed in on the Cajun-seasoned Big Easy skillet ($6.99). The combination of mushrooms, onions, peppers, ham, potatoes, and cheese was piled on the serving plate, with two fried eggs like snowy caps atop Mount Food. It tasted great with some of the Clancy's Fancy hot sauce thoughtfully provided. My nephew confessed later that he'd ordered the Big Easy just because it had the word *big* in it. He needn't have bothered—everything seemed to be served in portions designed for teenage football players.

I didn't borrow any of the hot sauce for my *huevos rancheros* ($6.49); they came smothered with a fiery homemade salsa that opened my sleepy eyes right up. Under the salsa was a tortilla bursting with beans and cheese, with two fried eggs perched on top. I wanted to finish it but gave up halfway through.

Omelets range from the classic three-cheese ($5.79) to a country omelet ($6.79) overflowing with cheese and veggies, and smothered in sausage gravy. Gravy on an omelet seemed like too much of a good thing, although the underlying eggs were fluffy clouds, and the filling tender and flavorful.

The Northside serves six breakfast sandwiches. The Wall Streeter ($4.39) is a sausage patty and fried egg served on an English muffin—basically an Egg McMuffin. The Northside ($6.25) is a hearty portion of bacon and ham topped with a fried egg, lettuce, and tomato on an onion roll. I loved this sandwich and would happily eat it for lunch as well as breakfast. The French Connection ($6.25) is ham and cheese between pieces of cinnamon raisin French toast. It came with syrup but was just as good without. Hash browns are served with all the sandwiches.

The Northside's grill chef is a true master. Three huge, golden buttermilk pancakes ($3.99) exactly filled the plate, with no room for syrup overflow. They were delicious, with the kind of tender perfection that I never achieve in my own kitchen. The French toast ($4.99) is made with cinnamon bread, evenly cooked throughout.

Lunch at the Northside is just as good as breakfast, with a varied and interesting menu of burgers, sandwiches, and salads, including many creative vegetarian items. But it's hard to compete with heaping plates of awesome breakfast food, and it isn't unusual to see people eating eggs and bacon right up to closing time at 3 p.m.

Service here is truly excellent. The waiters may look like a bunch of scruffy young guys, but for friendliness and attentiveness, they beat the staffs of many fancier establishments.

As fun as it was to visit the Northside Grill with a big group, I think it would be equally fun to go alone, read a complimentary paper, and people-watch. I will have to go early, though—and only if I'm really, really hungry.

Northside Grill
1015 Broadway **995–0965**
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—*E.M.*

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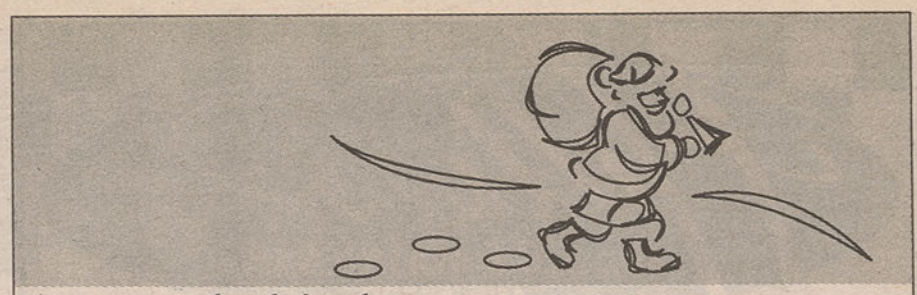

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MARKETPLACE CHANGES

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Barry Greenblatt and Dave Solo.

Barry's Fragels

Changing the guard at the Bagel Factory

The **Bagel Factory,** Ann Arbor's pioneer bagel maker, has been sold to the Ohio-based **Barry Bagels** chain. At first glance, that may look like another sad case of a generic chain swallowing up a plucky local business—but this story is a lot more interesting than that: Barry Greenblatt, the founder and namesake of Barry Bagels, was one of the Bagel Factory's first employees in the late 1960s. He learned the bagel-making trade from Factory cofounder Peter Johnson—who, in turn, later became a partner in Barry Bagels.

Greenblatt's path back to South University was circuitous but steady. While Greenblatt was in Ohio building his nine-store chain, one of the Bagel Factory's owners, Dave Solo, was buying out his other partners back here in Ann Arbor. By the time Greenblatt extended his business to Ann Arbor in 1986 with a store in Westgate, the two men had become friends in the way that longtime rivals sometimes can. Their relationship smoothed the way for the Barry Bagels acquisition: "It was a long time coming, and it was very, very friendly," Greenblatt says.

Greenblatt and his Ann Arbor–based partner, Laura Wyraz, who manages the Westgate store, have shut down the South University Bagel Factory and are giving it a much needed makeover. When it reopens, some months from now, it will be a Barry Bagels with the same menu of flavored bagels, bagel sandwiches, stuffed baked potatoes, and soups as the Westgate store. There will, however, be one significant addition: the Fragel, the Bagel Factory's trademarked deep-fried raisin and cinnamon bagel. Greenblatt was actually on hand for the Fragel's birth, which occurred when a fellow employee got to experimenting with a deep-fryer left by a previous tenant. But because the name was trademarked, Barry Bagels has never been able to sell Fragels—until now. (They'll also continue to be available at Bagel Fragel on Plymouth Road—originally a spin-off from the Bagel Factory, it was sold to a former employee some years ago and is not part of the Barry Bagels acquisition.)

Although Solo is getting out of retail, he's still in the wholesale end of the bagel business. Working from a kitchen on Ellsworth, he supplies raw dough to twenty-some bagel shops around the state, made to their owners' specifications. In fact, he'll be supplying the Barry Bagels chain with its dough—but because the dough will be made to Greenblatt's specifications, the bagels will taste like Barry Bagels', not the Bagel Factory's.

No one seems to agree on what makes Barry Bagels different from Bagel Factory bagels. Wyraz says the Bagel Factory's were sweeter, and baked at a lower temperature for a longer period of time. Greenblatt maintains the principal difference was in the selection of flavors. "We each had different tastes, but we both started out with a variation of what Peter Johnson did back in 'seventy," he says. "Over the years, Dave experimented a great deal more than we did. We were trying to simplify."

That probably means that many of the Bagel Factory's exotic varieties, like smoked cheddar or spinach, may be gone for good. But Laura Wyraz hopes at least a few will make the transition. "I'm trying to talk Barry into getting some of the more popular ones," she says.

Barry Bagels, 1306 South University, 663–3345. Hours unavailable at press time.

Downtown adds a pair of boutiques

Mathilde Spanyol shops in Uruguay, Wendy Batiste in N.Y.C. and L.A.

It took Mathilde Spanyol three decades to realize her dream of opening a clothing boutique. Now that she has, she intends to spread her good fortune around by representing small, family-owned clothing manufacturing companies in Uruguay whose work might never otherwise see the States. "These small businesses, they need me," she says. "I don't care about making millions—I just want to pay my bills. I am lucky, so I have to give that luck back to somebody."

Originally from the south of France, Spanyol came to the United States in 1967 from South America, where her father worked for the French embassy in Uruguay. She started out baby-sitting and tutoring children in French, moved on to waitressing and working as a nurse's aide, and landed at Huron Valley National Bank (now Comerica), where she worked her way up from teller to assistant manager. She owned her own silk-screening business for a while—Ink, Inc.—but closed it because, as she says, "it was time."

Spanyol is big on timing. "I always wanted to have a boutique since I came to America," she says, "but you have to do many things to learn and to have experience in life. And when the time is right, you know. The right time is now, so I'm doing it. And I'm so happy, because my dream came true."

Mathilde's Imports is near Kerrytown, in the Market Place space recently vacated by DeBoer Gallery. Its inventory, which Spanyol describes as "simple, elegant, and earthy," includes beautiful hand-loomed sweaters made by a women's co-op called Manos de Uruguay, handmade shoes, and leather jackets made in a small, father-son factory. With every supplier, Spanyol takes the time to sit down, have lunch, and get to know the people involved. "When I leave, it's a kiss and 'Thank you for your business,'" she says. "I only work with people who give me good quality, and who are people I can feel close to."

Spanyol hopes to enjoy the same relationship with her customers, by offering evening hours by appointment and encouraging special orders. "I want to do it like it used to be," she says, "with very special service for my clients. I want to have cof-

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MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

fee, tea, water, juice, so they can sit down and I can offer them something—like people did to me in Uruguay."

Mathilde's Imports, 303 Detroit Street in Market Place, 214–1248. Mon.–Wed., Fri., & Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–4 p.m. Open Thurs. & evenings by appointment.

Over on East Liberty, Wendy Batiste has leased the last of the former Schoolkids'/SKR Records spaces for her **Twiggy Boutique.** For those over forty, the name might conjure up images of an anorexic model in size 6 clothing, but the high school and college students for whom the store is intended have no such associations. "Most of the young kids aren't familiar with Twiggy the model," says Batiste, herself a recent Cornell University grad. "They hear the name and they're just, like, 'Wow, it's so cute,' which is exactly the reaction I was hoping for."

Batiste majored in industrial and labor relations with the intention of going to law school and specializing in the art industry. But after a short stint working for the telecommunications firm Global Crossing in Bingham Farms, she decided the corporate world wasn't for her. "I thought about what I liked to do, and realized that I love to draw, I love clothes, and I love to help people shop and dress," she says. Drawing on the advice of a retailer in Ithaca, New York, whom she met in her student days, she decided to open her own shop.

Twiggy specializes in contemporary women's fashions—coats, sweaters, denim, hats, bags, and jewelry—and showcases up-and-coming designers from New York and Los Angeles. The color palette for winter is fun and funky, with lots of oranges, reds, and purples, and the look remains retro: wide-leg jeans are back, as are miniskirts with boots. "A lot of the fashions that are popular today are basically reincarnated from the closets of our parents and grandparents," Batiste concedes.

In early October, even before her new store was open, Batiste was full of plans for the future. She'd like to add men's clothing and shoes, and she also wants to launch her own line of clothing beginning with T-shirts and denim, which she also plans to call Twiggy. She's also getting married next summer; her fiancé, Rodney Johnson Jr., is a silent partner in the store.

Twiggy Boutique, 535 East Liberty, 222–9600. Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. noon–8 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m.

The Kouzas extend their reach

This time, with a spiffy Coney Island

The Kouza family continue to extend their reign over the 200 block of North Main with the November opening of **Main Street Coney & Grill.** It's midway between the Kouzas' Main Party

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Shoppe, which they bought in 1989, and the Heidelberg Restaurant, which they bought last year. "We had the idea for a while. We just didn't know where to put it," says Raghid "Joey" Kouza. "It seemed like downtown needed a place where people could get a meal in fifteen minutes."

When the Kouzas bought the building, though, it had been vacant for decades. "There was no electrical, no plumbing—it was basically a gutted building," Kouza says. He suspects it was one of the first buildings on the block, because he found traces of old windowsills on both the north and south walls—indicating that at one time it was flanked by empty lots. "It's been pretty cool, getting a feel for the history of it," he says.

Dearborn Heights designer Hafez Timari and a construction crew spent months of grueling, twelve-hour days rehabbing the building. The result is pretty darn elegant for a coney joint, with a faux pressed tin ceiling, ceramic tile floors, a restful mountain scene painted opposite the front door, and "stone" walls that Timari molded by hand to give the look of a Mediterranean courtyard. The foyer is layered with five different shades of paint and accented by a trompe l'oeil window. The ceiling is lit by cool, blue gray neon, suggesting a summer sky at twilight.

Steve Stylianou, who has owned family restaurants in Trenton, Lincoln Park, and Flat Rock, is general manager. He also heads up the kitchen, where he's created a menu that brings together comfort foods from around the world—the Middle East (shish kebab, shawarma), Greece (gyros, pastitsio, moussaka, grape leaves), Italy (ravioli, veal parmesan), and North America (fried chicken, liver and onions, steak, pork chops) are all well represented. Breakfast, available all day, includes homemade biscuits and gravy, Belgian waffles, omelets, and corned beef hash. There are soups, salads, sandwiches, and, of course, coney dogs.

With the opening of the new County Administration Building across the street, Main Street Coney should have an ample supply of customers looking to get that fifteen-minute meal. "So many of these people at lunchtime just need to get in and get out," Kouza says. "This ought to be a good spot."

Main Street Coney & Grill, 207 North Main, 821–0358. Sun.–Thurs. 7 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 7 a.m.–11 p.m.

Urban chic for suburban shoppers

And other Briarwood developments

Urban wear continues to go suburban at Briarwood with the opening of **Out the Door** (332–4683), which specializes in upscale men's and women's urban designer fashions. Invented by and once sold chiefly to African Americans, urban looks—like baggy pants with oversized pockets, shiny basketball jackets with huge logos, and caps—are now as popular with middle-class kids who've never seen the inside of a subway as they are with the rappers who inspired them (or in some cases designed them: one of the store's lines is the creation of rapper-entrepreneur Sean "Puffy" Combes).

Out the Door, which is known by its acronym, **OTD,** also carries clothing from designer labels like Azzure, Phat Farm, Baby Phat, and Timberland. The store is across from the M-Den, just off center court.

In the Jacobson's wing, the **Discovery Channel Store** (769–8403) carries a line of products that more or less reflect the cable network's educational programming. Some of the items, like an old-fashioned globe, a CD-ROM game that simulates emergency room situations and lets users play doctor, and an "executive" global time indicator, can be argued to be learning tools; others, like a hands-free phone shaped like an egg and a "Stress Shooter" complete with foam discs meant for launching at hapless friends and family members, are clearly intended for entertainment only. Not surprisingly, a lot of the merchandise is tied in to the network's programming.

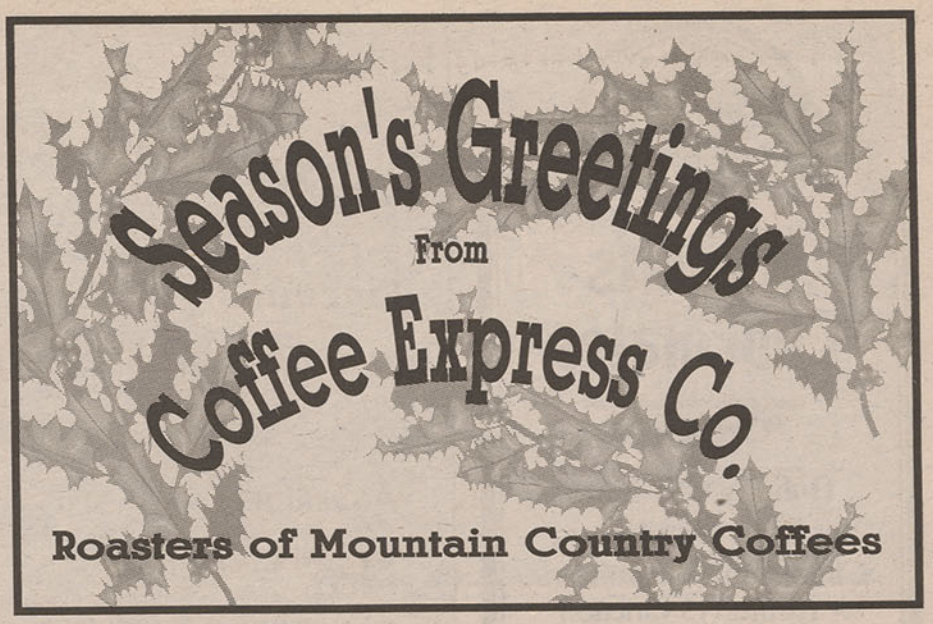
In the old Coffee Beanery spot near Marshall Field's, Tony Kobello is opening **Soup's On Cafe,** the first of what he hopes will be three Ann Arbor outlets by the end of next year. Kobello's been in the food business for almost twenty years—at one time his Ann Arbor Catering operated the food concessions at the Edge nightclub, the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, and the Bird of Paradise—but this is his first freestanding restaurant. He's lavished attention on his new space, putting in hardwood floors, ceramic tile, and a glass wall through which customers can watch his staff making soup.

The kitchen turns out twelve freshly made soups every day, priced from $2.99 a cup to $5.95 for a bowl of some of the fancier soups like lobster bisque. Other recipes include asparagus and dill, seafood gumbo, butternut squash with apples, a Portuguese-inspired kale, and "pot roast," a hearty beef stew with carrots and potatoes. Each day's selection will include dairy-free, vegetarian, and fat-free choices. Kobello hopes Briarwood shoppers will come in and try them all. "We're big on free samples," he says.

Also new at the mall: sports and fitness retailer **Just Sports,** near Sears; **Chico's,** a contemporary women's clothier that pushes its wrinkle-free "Traveler's Collection"; **AT&T Wireless** (913–9260), a retail outlet for the telecommunication company's Digital PCS service and phone equipment; teen shoe store **Journeys** (222–0814), which sells Dr. Martens, Timberlands, Candies, Puma, and Adidas in addition to its own house-branded footwear; seasonal retailer **Day by Day Calendar** (213–5876); and **San Francisco Music Box** (994–1144), a collectibles shop that once had a full-time store at the mall but is now returning just for the holidays with a selection of musical figurines, snow globes, and Italian wooden jewelry boxes.

Briarwood hours: Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE



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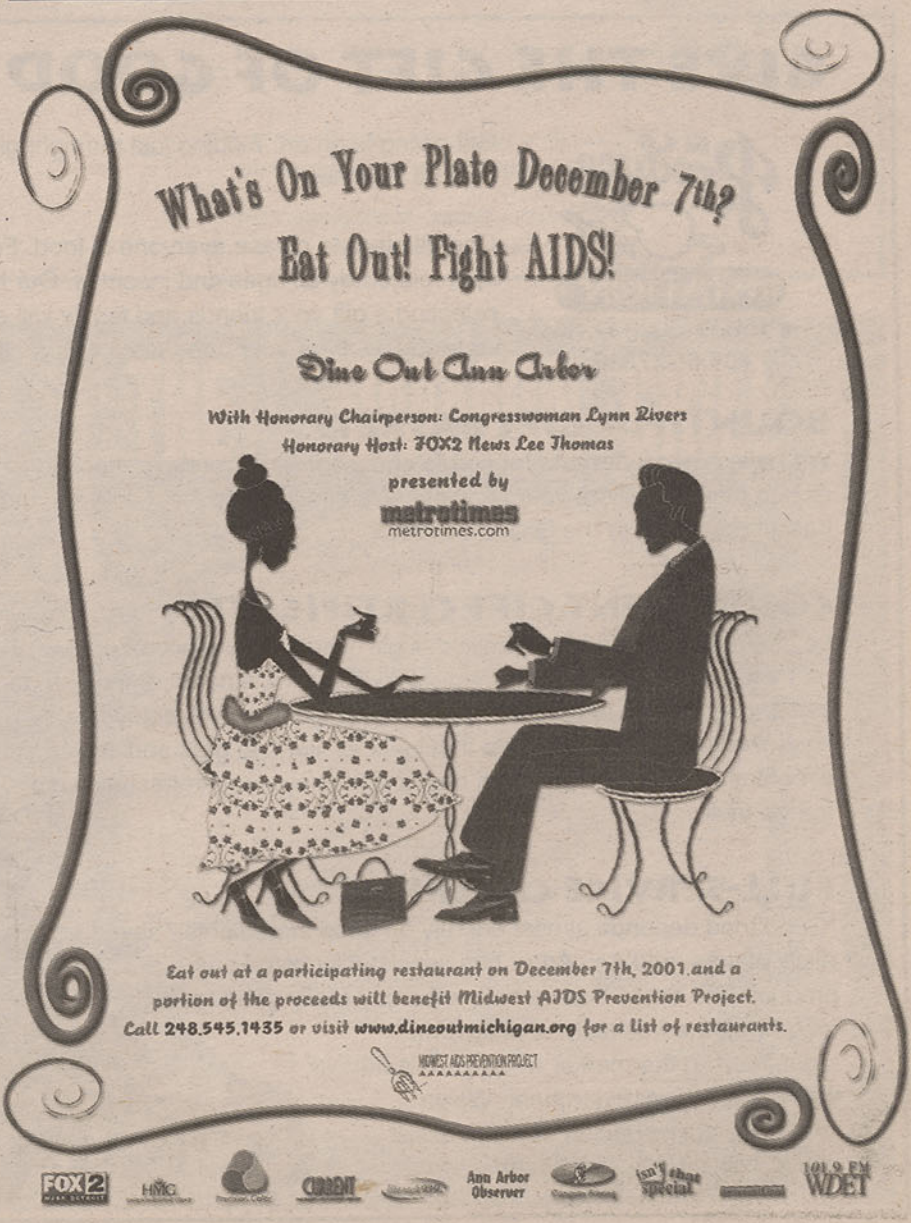
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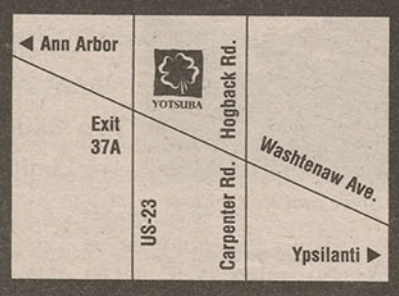

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The Abukaffs buy Jerusalem Market

In a time of tragedy, their customers came through

Awni Abukaff and his wife, Najwa, had owned **Jerusalem International Market** just six months when terrorists flew jetliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Both natives of Jordan, they weren't sure how their customers would react, but as it turned out, they had nothing to worry about. "Some of my customers give me roses, some of them send me cards," Awni says. "They are so respectful, and so great. God bless this country."

Awni, whose uncle, Taha Abukaff, recently opened Middle Eastern Pastries on Packard, is new to retail but not to the food business. He was one of the chefs who helped open Mediterrano, on South State, before moving on to Mediterrano's nearby competitor, Azure. He got out of the restaurant trade when the long hours and fast pace became too overwhelming. "It's a lot of stress," he says.

Learning a new trade might have been overwhelming, too, were it not for Awni's father, Ahmad, who runs a butcher shop in Jordan but was at the time on an extended vacation in the United States. Ahmad had plenty of advice to give, especially about the preparation and sale of *halal* meat, slaughtered by a Muslim according to Islamic rituals. Among other things, those rituals include making sure the animal is fed and rested before slaughter, and, while invoking God's name, killing it quickly and humanely with a knife sharpened outside its presence.

As under previous owner Abdallah Naser, Jerusalem Market's shelves are packed with fresh produce, packaged Middle Eastern products like Pakistani basmati rice, and bulk dispensers filled with lentils, split peas, and burghul (aka bulgur—crushed and dried wheat kernels). The Abukaffs are expanding the meat selection to include baby goat, sheep, and young lamb, and will be offering more desserts, some of them brought in from Uncle Taha's pastry cases on Packard. "I've been trying to bring a lot of stuff from Yugoslavia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Turkey, Pakistan, all over," Awni says. "Whatever people are asking for, I try to bring it."

Awni occasionally visits his native Jordan, but he feels most at home here in Ann Arbor. "There is a saying in Egypt that if you drink from the Nile you have to go back one day," he says. "But the water in America, if you drink it, you have to be here all the time. I hope everybody in this country, all colors, all religions, believes this is a beautiful country. I love it here."

Jerusalem International Market, 1713 Plymouth Road in the Courtyard Shops, 668–7773. Mon.–Fri. 9:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

Briefly Noted

Henry Park had been in New York just four months when he decided he'd had enough. He and his wife, Kay, had been happy running the Kosmo Deli in Kerrytown, but when Henry got an offer to work for Kay's brother renting computers, they agreed he should give it a try. "I thought I wouldn't have to work if we go to New York," says Kay, who stayed in Ann Arbor with the couple's two sons while Henry reconnoitered. "But it was more expensive than we realized there."

Even if money hadn't been an issue, Henry hated the city. He missed the trees and the lawns. He missed Kerrytown. He missed the friends, customers, and family he'd left behind. Kay and the kids were supposed to join him once he got situated, but he couldn't bring himself to settle in. "He'd call and say he just can't live there," Kay says. "He'd say Ann Arbor is just too good compared to any city in the United States."

So Henry came back home—luckily, says Kay, well before the World Trade Center tragedy—and the Parks turned to the perplexing problem of finding a new way to make a living. They'd sold Kosmo to Kay's nephew, Don Kwon, and weren't about to ask him to give it back. Finally they heard that **Bill's Market,** on Packard near State, was up for sale. They grabbed it.

They're keeping the name—"Everybody knows it," Kay points out—and reopening the deli, which previous owner Bill Lagos had closed before he put the store on the market. They bought a new stove and deli case and hired a manager, Rico Decola, who says he makes "the best Italian submarine sandwich in town." In addition to deli sandwiches, they'll offer soup, chili, and pizza by the slice. They hope eventually to take advantage of Decola's expertise and offer more Italian specialties, and to serve breakfast.

The one thing Bill's Market won't be serving is egg rolls. "You want egg roll, you have to go to Kosmo—that's their specialty," Kay laughs.

Bill's Market & Deli, 709 Packard, 741–8303. Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 a.m., Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m.–2 a.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

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If you want to look like a New Yorker—or maybe only like someone who plays one on TV—head for **New York & Company,** the Cranbrook Village women's clothier that until recently was the much more staid **Lerner New York.**

Up against hip, aggressive megastores like Old Navy and Target, Lerner found itself eating its competitors' dust. "You had no fashion content. You had no real image or brand the customer could hang onto. The Lerner name really was becoming meaningless," Lerner vice-president Philip Monaghan told the *New York Daily News.*

The New York & Company identity started out as a house brand. But eventually, after being test marketed in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, it took over the entire chain—right down to the sign out front. The Limited, the store's parent company (which also owns Express, Limited Too, Structure, and Henri Bendel), hired former Jones of New York designer Charlotte Neuville to create the New York & Company look, which she describes as "that sexiness and energy that so many of us look to New York for." In other words, these are clothes for women who want to dress like their favorite characters on New York–based TV shows like *Friends* and *Sex and the City.*

The store's decor got a makeover too—with a whiter, brighter interior, bold graphics and photos of New York landmarks, and prerecorded radio music with pretend deejay talk about the Big Apple.

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Like more upscale designers, New York & Company is pushing a lot of denim for winter, as well as stretch pants in what it calls "city styles": a flared boot cut, a slim contoured leg, and a more traditional "classic" line.

New York & Company, 960 Eisenhower Parkway, 662–2477. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m.

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The Ann Arbor Art Center is turning its **Feat of Clay** paint-your-own-pottery studio on the building's second floor into a gallery showcasing the work of Michigan artists. According to marketing director Rosie Ravida, the drop-in studio was once the only one of its kind in the area and attracted customers from as far away as Northville, but other paint-your-own-pottery businesses have opened up since then, and business at Feat of Clay has suffered. The Art Center will continue to offer pottery painting as part of its "First Sundays @ 1" drop-in art workshops, and customers can arrange pottery-painting parties in advance (Ravida says the activity is especially popular for bridal showers, birthdays, and corporate employee recognition programs).

The new showcase, tentatively called **Gallery 2,** will feature a different group of four to ten Michigan artists each month.

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MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*

The space opened in October with a showing of paintings and pastels by local photographer John Shultz, paintings by Alvey L. Jones, watercolors by Jean Lau, and three-dimensional metalwork by sculptor Karen Miller Thomas. Center staff hope the new gallery will attract private as well as corporate customers, and they'll make the space available to groups for lectures, workshops, private parties, and other events.

At ninety-two years of age, the Art Center is Michigan's third oldest art organization. Its annual juried all-media competition, from which some of Gallery 2's artists will come, got its start in 1922.

Gallery 2 at the Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 West Liberty, 994–8004. Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m.

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When Yu Ning Weng and his wife, Xiu Qin, who own the **Panda House** Chinese restaurant in Maple Village, opened a second location less than a mile south on Stadium last year, they expected to concentrate primarily on dine-in customers at Maple Village and carryout customers at the new, smaller store. Eighteen months later, however, they found themselves spread too thin trying to run two places. In October they sold the Stadium location to Hong Kong native Malcolm Kim.

Kim, who spent several years living in New York before moving to Ann Arbor, has changed the name of the restaurant to **Happy Wok.** He's introduced a wide-ranging menu that embraces not only Chinese but also Thai, Mexican, Japanese, and American cuisines. Along with the stir-fries, egg foo yong, lo meins, and fried rice you might expect from a restaurant named after China's principal method of cooking, customers can also get chicken nuggets, doughnuts, egg salad, burritos, curry, and sushi. "We have different tastes from different countries," Kim says. "It's the way we do it in New York City."

The menu also promises, somewhat enigmatically, that it features "the right special diet food"—which means that there are half a dozen steamed meat and vegetable dishes served with a garlic-and-soy sauce on the side. Brown rice is available with any of the other Chinese entrees upon request.

Happy Wok, 1916 West Stadium, 665–6888. Mon.–Thurs. 10:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.

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Hamilton Square, the minimall on North University between State and Thayer, lost its two restaurant tenants within months of each other earlier this year when first Jacques Patisserie and then 3 Amigos moved out. Now two new restaurants have moved in, again almost at the same time.

In early October, brothers Adam and Ash Farha opened **City Bakery & Cafe II** (their original City Bakery & Cafe is in Westland). The bakery offers a dozen savory breads baked fresh daily, including sourdough, cheese and onion, and pumpernickel, as well as several quick breads like blueberry, chocolate chip, cranberry, and coconut, which are available by the loaf or by the slice. Like its predecessor, Jacques, City Bakery also serves stuffed breakfast croissants, homemade soups, deli sandwiches, salads, and pastries. To wash it all down, there are coffeehouse drinks, Italian sodas, and fruit smoothies.

Across the hall, Chan Lee mans the sushi counter at his **Sushi.come**—he pronounces the name "sushi-dot-com." He's packed an amazing twenty-two seats plus a ten-seat sushi bar into a tiny space that once housed Mrs. Peabody's Cookies and 3 Amigos, and most of the time they're all occupied. There are even three tables out in the hall.

Sushi.come serves teriyaki, *udon* noodle soups, and *kasu,* which is breaded, deep-fried meat, but most customers order sushi. There are forty different seven-piece sushi rolls on the menu, with prices ranging from $2 for a cucumber or avocado roll to $10 for a soft-shell crab roll, as well as *nigiri* sushi like fatty tuna, scallop, octopus, or sea urchin, which is sold by the single piece. According to manager Young Lee (no relation to Chan), budget-conscious students are especially fond of the combination plates, which present a "chef's choice" selection of sushi alongside a tuna, California, or eel roll. The $10 combo offers a seven-piece selection plus a tuna roll; for those on bigger budgets, $65 buys an eye-popping fifty-piece selection.

City Bakery & Cafe II, 715 North University, 913–5666. Mon.–Fri. 6 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Sushi.come, 715 North University, 213–3044. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 4–9 p.m.

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Indonesian furnishings store **Kayu** became **Kayu Musical Instruments** this fall, after a series of problems with the building and the troubled economy prompted owners Daniel and Delphine Stephens to deemphasize their big-ticket items in favor of easier-to-sell imported drums, wind instruments, and guitars. "We took down a wall and knocked out electricity on one side of the store. Then we were closed in August because we didn't have any air-conditioning," Daniel says. "We've had enormous problems with that space."

Kayu reopened August 27; two weeks later the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon sent retail sales plummeting. The store really didn't take off, Daniel says, until October, when alternative band Rusted Root played the Michigan Theater, bringing their fans—and their drummer, Jim Donovan—in to admire Kayu's selection of African, Turkish, Pakistani, Irish, and Egyptian percussion instruments. In fact, Donovan was so impressed that he's coming back in December to hold a drum workshop in the store.

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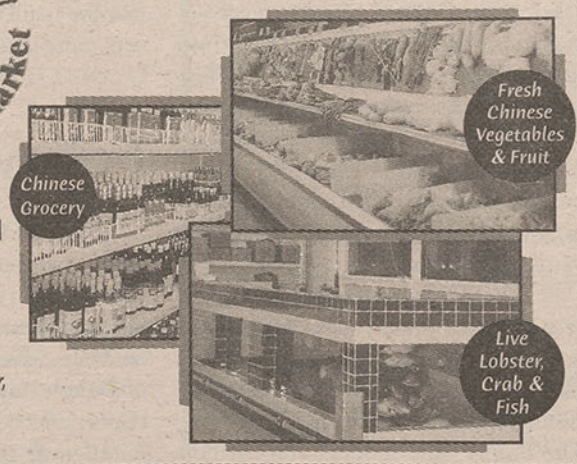

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The Stephenses, who also own Ethnic Creations on State Street as well as stores in Petoskey and Mount Pleasant, have stocked Kayu Musical Instruments with *djembe* hand drums from West Africa, *doumbek* drums from the Middle East, bells, shakers, xylophones, and a number of gift items like incense, candles, tapestries, and handicrafts. They also carry drum-making supplies like goatskins and rope. In the spring the store will add professional-quality gamelan instruments for making Indonesian music.

The new focus on percussion has just one drawback: the noise. One of the tenants in the offices above the shop complains regularly, says Daniel, and has even gone so far as to ask him to close his business. "We try to keep things as quiet as possible during office hours," he says, "but what can I do? We don't play the drums, the drums don't sell. It's that simple."

Kayu Musical Instruments, 539 East Liberty, 794–0099. Mon.–Sat. noon–8 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m.

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For some franchisees, the experience of paying a fee to a corporation that dictates how you run your business is simply a lesson in how much better it is to be a franchisor. At least that's what Roger and Navina Patel concluded after being **Dunkin' Donuts** franchisees for over ten years. "We wanted to do something bigger and better, more than just doughnuts and coffee," Roger says, "but Dunkin' Donuts really limited us."

Accordingly, the Patels have gotten out of their franchise agreement and are turning their three Dunkin' Donuts shops—in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Saline—into what they hope will be their own franchisable concept: **Espresso Cafe.** So far, the Ann Arbor store on Stadium near Jackson still looks a lot like a Dunkin' Donuts, from the trademark raspberry-color awning out front to the menu board that still lists "munchkins," or doughnut holes. But the Patels plan eventually to serve a variety of baked goods, including doughnuts, muffins, bagels, pies, and cakes, plus a dozen different coffees and, in the summer, smoothies and ice cream.

The Patels' role models are Caribou Coffee and Starbucks, two national chains they hope will one day be their peers and competitors. "We want to open at least ten more in the next year," Roger says, "and probably two or three more in Ann Arbor alone."

Espresso Cafe, 2550 West Stadium, 669–0587. Daily 6 a.m.–8 p.m.

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Detroiter Helen Braswell bought the **Arbor Party Store** from the Kashani family last February, in part to pay for her children's college educations. All four of them work at least part time at the shop: twenty-five-year-old Sheila, who has already graduated from EMU and whose own daughter is Braswell's first grandchild; twenty-one-year-old Andrea, who's a student at Bowling Green State University in Ohio; twenty-three-year-old Joe, who, Braswell says, "attends college sometimes"; and the baby of the family, Aurora, who at age eleven is more of a groupie than an employee. "She just comes in and hangs around and eats up all the candy and the good stuff," Braswell laughs.

Braswell says that the Kashanis, an older couple who have since retired, were having trouble keeping up with the demands of the store, and that customers have been telling her they find the place cleaner and better organized. She's kept the convenience-store inventory more or less the same but has added gift baskets and hopes they'll be popular for the holidays.

Braswell tried briefly to promote delivery, but with most of the store's customers coming from the nearby Kellogg Eye Center and other U-M medical buildings, there wasn't enough interest to justify hiring drivers. She's maintaining her second innovation, however: a 10 percent discount off cases of wine.

Arbor Party Store, 1162 Broadway, 662–3311. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun. noon–7 p.m.

Closings

Wallpaper Depot owner Linda Cates closed her Washtenaw Avenue store in August, leaving a hand-lettered sign in the window telling customers she was reopening in Belleville on October 1. As of early November, however, calls to the Belleville store's phone number were still being answered by a voice-mail recording stating that the mailbox was full and couldn't accept more messages.

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, this column featured eleven new shops and restaurants. Four of them are still open a decade later: the Southwest-themed **Prickly Pear Cafe,** on Main Street; the Traver Village outlets of **Dough Boys Bakery** and **Dobbs Opticians;** and designer and supplier **Expo Kitchen & Bath, Ltd.,** in the southeast wing of Westgate Shopping Center.

Two other businesses survive in concept: **Bangkok II** was one of a succession of Thai restaurants in Braun Court that continues today with **Siam Cuisine.** And although vintage clothier David McNulty closed his **Light Wraps** store, above Ashley's on State, some time ago, he's since opened Retro Threads in another second-floor space down the street.

Webster's Books in Traver Village was replaced by a similar business, Nicola's Books—but Nicola Rooney has since closed that store as well (her original Westgate location continues). The other businesses that didn't make it to their ten-year anniversaries are kitchen store **Cargo Express,** at Oak Valley Centre; **Andrew's Anytime Catering** and deli on Broadway;

Top of the i, a little cafe on the top floor of the Institute for Social Research; and **Liberty Street Annex,** which Gloria Oviatt opened next to her Liberty Street Antiques to handle the overflow. (Liberty Street Antiques is now gone as well.)

December 1991 survival rate: 55 percent

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Five years ago this month, Marketplace Changes talked about eight new businesses. Only one of them has survived, and that only in concept: **Abe's Coney Island** on South Industrial was sold and replaced by a very similar diner called Benny's.

Much to the dismay of many a hungry Kroger shopper, the **Cinnabon** outlet inside the supermarket's Plymouth Road store has long since closed, leaving those with sweet teeth to make do with Kroger's new Krispy Kreme doughnut line instead. **Brewbakers** in Kerrytown, which as the name implies was part bakery and part brewery, is also gone.

Rebecca Berman closed her Kerrytown art gallery in October 1996 and opened **Berman Gallery and Lighting Studio** in the Market Place building on the other side of the Farmers' Market a few days later. It, too, is now closed. The other business casualties are the **Dixboro Dulcimer Store** on Plymouth Road; downtown convenience store **Main Mart,** which moved in December 1996 from the Goodyear Building to Kline's former location; used bridal and formal wear shop **Repeat Performance** on Jackson Road; and **Ann Arbor Flowers and Garden Center** on Washtenaw, which closed to make way for the shopping center scheduled to be built at the corner of Washtenaw and Huron Parkway next year.

December 1996 survival rate: 13 percent

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One year ago this month, Marketplace Changes reported the openings of eight businesses. Three of them are already closed: Nickels Arcade statuary boutique **Ancient Treasure; Cafe 303 . . . One Flight Down,** which replaced Sweet Lorraine's near Kerrytown; and **Carpet World & Floors,** which replaced New York Carpet World on Washtenaw and has since itself been replaced by the similarly named Carpet Center & Floors.

Stores celebrating their first anniversaries are **Motte & Bailey, Booksellers,** on East Ann; macrobiotic eatery **Sunflower Cafe** on Washington; pasta shop **Demeter** in the Plymouth Green shopping center; **Porter's Premium Popcorn** in Nickels Arcade; and **Old Navy** at Arborland.

December 2000 survival rate: 63 percent

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Got a retail or restaurant change? Leave voice mail at 769–3175, ext. 364, or send e-mail to lauramcr@earthlink.net.

—Laura McReynolds

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The Zingerman's Times

Vol. 4...No. 12 © 2001 DSE Inc. December 2001 Printed in Ann Arbor Land of a Thousand Flavors

Zing news nibbles

Baguettes Race into Shop

Rosemary Baguettes have been unveiled at the Bakeshop! The same great Parisian baguette baked with a wisp of fresh rosemary, these new loaves have already received big kudos from taste testers in and outside of Zingerman's, and are ready to make your stomach purrr with happiness.

Southside Lunch Secrets

The Bakeshop has a secret: lunch. With superb homestyle soups, sandwiches, and handmade, Sicilian-style gelato from Zingerman's Creamery. "Getting great food on the southside is a gift," said one very happy industrial park resident!

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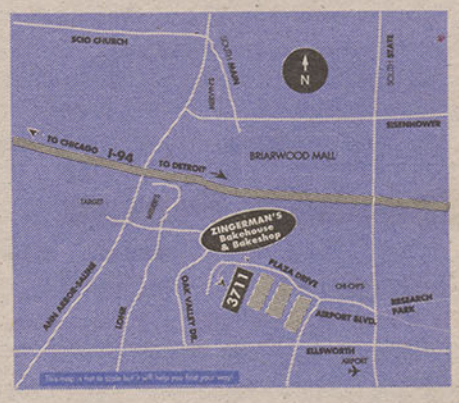
Zingerman's Creamery — Manchester, MI 734.665.1901
www.Zingermans.com

Secret Southside Source for Baked Goods Revealed!

Extensive undercover work by the *Times* has uncovered some of this country's best breads and baked goods right here in Ann Arbor. While many Bakehouse Bakeshop regulars seem reluctant to share their secret source, the *Times* can now reveal the location of these special treats. "You'd never know it just by driving by," said perpetual commuter and pastry-lover, Eileen Devereux. "But it's only about half a mile off of State Street." "It's sort of hidden away, but it really is worth the search!" said one Ann Arbor resident.

What's drawing all these folks to such an out-of-the-way location? "The chance to buy some of the best breads and baked goods in the country right at the source!," said bread-lover Sheryl Chamberlain. "These breads, cakes and cookies are being shipped all over the country, and they're made right here in Ann Arbor! All of which adds up to the noteworthy news that while national economic trends are less than ideal, sales at the Bakehouse Bakeshop are apparently going up –30% over last year, in fact!



So stop by the Bakeshop at 3711 Plaza Drive **(open 7AM to 6PM daily)** and join in on the secret!

Special Pastries Take Parties Straight to the Top

The call for parties has been heard! A big motivator seems to be the opportunity to buy some of the very special whole cakes and pastries from Zingerman's Bakehouse Bakeshop.

One hit has been the **Lemon Merangé tart**—homemade lemon curd inside an all-butter tart shell topped with a handmade meringue. Another exceptional offering is the **Magical Marjolaine,** a traditional French treat invented in the middle of the last century. "It was a huge hit at the Zingerman's Catering event at Ann Arbor's new University Commons," said Catering's event queen, Vicki Squires. The delicate layers of nut meringue sandwich a chocolate butter cream, and are then wrapped in an exterior coating of espresso buttercream and garnished with chopped toasted hazelnuts.

Also hitting the top of the taste charts is the Bakehouse's ultra delicate, but very decadent pastry, the **Paris Brest.** A fantastic French treat that masterfully mixes pralines, fresh whipping cream and real Mexican vanilla into a dessert that is so light, it's hard to believe it's so rich! Speaking of natural wonders, let's not forget Zingerman's **Amazing Cheesecakes**–now available in family sizes. Made with dark chocolate or Mexican vanilla, they're a perfect ending to any holiday meal!

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Ann Arbor Observer

2001 Holiday Guide

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Shopping: The Primal Urge

Men get it, too

by Tony McReynolds

In many ways I'm a man like other men. I covet power tools. I wander the aisles of Home Depot, thinking, "What if . . . ?" And I have plans. Big plans. Plans that involve bumping out load-bearing walls and pouring concrete footers.

But I am also a man with a secret.

I like to shop. I know I'm not supposed to, but I do. I try to tell myself it's the primal thrill of the hunt, and holiday gifts are just a different kind of prey, but I know better. The fact is, I'm a shopping fool, and I'd rather hunt bargains than big game. So think of me as your holiday hunting guide. I've already blazed a shopping trail, and all you've got to do is follow my tracks.

(Above) Lord of the Rings chess set from Chess Express; dream catcher from Native Ways Gallery. (R.) Pewter-colored bird pincushion at Busy Hands.

You're going to see a lot of wizards around town this year thanks to the Harry Potter craze, and Tolkien is back, too, in anticipation of the live-action *Lord of the Rings* movie scheduled for release in December. Chess Express upstairs on Main Street sells a Lord of the Rings chess set for $200, and any real fan will have no trouble announcing moves like "Fangorn's Frodo to Smeagol's Nazgul four" instead of "bishop's pawn to queen's knight three."

And then there's the shot-glass chess set for $200, which substitutes sixteen shot glasses of different shapes and sizes for conventional chessmen. Every time you capture an opponent's piece, you have to drink the contents. (A note for the novice player: a typical endgame move in shot-glass chess is "king's pawn three to flat on my face on the living room floor.") There's also a very cool Civil War chess set for $325.

At Forma on Main Street between Liberty and William, I saw a cropped jacket in bold primary colors that looks like something Picasso might have designed back in the mid-1960s if he'd been a Carnaby Street clothier instead of a cubist painter. Very mod at $600. Equally striking was a pair of silver, copper, and nickel Mark Alexander earrings for $340. Shot through with miniature springs, gears, and arrows, they look as if they ought to *do* something if you could just find a way to run some current through them.

Some people are dreaming of a white Christmas, but I'm dreaming of a wet one. It'll give me a chance to try out my new Windpro gusseted umbrella from Wilkinson Luggage, $30. The tag says its "innovative, aerodynamic design defies wind forces and resists inversion." Translation: it won't blow inside out on a windy day.

Across the street at Busy Hands, I learned that Russian children don't believe in Santa Claus. They believe in Father Frost (aka Grandfather Frost), and you don't want to get on his bad side. Tradition has it that Father Frost freezes naughty little boys and girls to death. (I think he's in bed with the Russian mob.) Happily, the hand-carved figures at Busy Hands are too small to pose a threat—hand-painted and about six inches tall, they start at $30. You can also get small, hand-painted porcelain-faced dolls garbed in traditional folk costumes of Eastern Europe; they go for $12 each, and they make great Christmas tree ornaments.

If someone's into needlework, Busy Hands has a fascinating assortment of reproduction antique needlework tools, including needle cases hand carved from cattle horns by nomadic tribesmen in Nepal. They have some pretty fancy pincushions, too, including a pair of small pewter-colored birds with red plush backs that clamp on the edge of a table. They're $18.

If you know someone who loves *Mystery* on PBS, Falling Water has an elegant folio of note cards illustrated by Edward Gorey called "Neglected Murderesses." (Gorey illustrated the show's animated title sequence.) Each card depicts a different murderess in Gorey's distinctively spooky style. The woman on the front of the box is my favorite; she's dressed in Victorian nurse's garb and standing behind an empty wheelchair at the edge of a windswept cliff. You're probably way ahead of me on this one, but according to the caption, "nurse Rose J. Rosenblatt tilted her employer out of a wheelchair and over a cliff at Sludgemouth in 1898."

If you dread hearing the words "I had the weirdest dream last night," Native Ways Gallery can help. It carries contemporary versions of traditional Native American dream catchers for $36. Made

PHOTOS: CHESS SET AND BIRD PINCUSHION, J. ADRIAN WYLIE; DREAM CATCHER, GREGORY FOX

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of netting, feathers, and beads, dream catchers were modeled after spider webs and thought to work on the same general principle, but they supposedly catch bad dreams instead of bugs. The good dreams slip through a hole in the middle and into the sleeper's mind.

I don't know much about buffalo, but I did see *Dances with Wolves,* and my limited experience made me expect a buffalo-hair blanket to be pretty scratchy. But the buffalo throws at Native Ways are surprisingly soft and come in rich, muted colors and designs. They feel like something you'd want to be wrapped in while sitting around a campfire, but they're just as cozy at home in front of the hearth. Signed and numbered, they're $210 each.

I don't know much about yaks, either, but the handmade Tibetan yak's-wool sweaters at Jewel Heart look as if they'd cut those brutal Himalayan winds without a problem. They're $125. And don't let a sore behind deter a friend from the road to enlightenment. Give a buckwheat-filled Zafu pillow for use during meditation. At $60, not only does it provide cushiony comfort to help clear the mind, its wedged shape also helps keep the spine straight while the user sits in the lotus position.

The woodsy Woolrich plaid blankets at Vintage to Vogue in Kerrytown could double as throw rugs. They're 100 percent wool on one side, white polyester fleece on the other. A rich, dark plaid version, looking as though it ought to be draped over a leather chair in a northern Michigan ski lodge, goes for $112. Nearby, hefty iron finials with just the right amount of flecked rust to give them character go for $15 each. Three to six inches tall, they come in shapes like pineapples and fleurs-de-lis, and they make nifty little accent pieces.

Buying beer made in a country famous for its other alcoholic offerings is always risky. (If you've ever tried French beer, you know what I mean.) But single-malt scotch is out of my price range this year, so my brother-in-law will be sampling the

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Marine-inspired jewelry from Matthew Hoffmann.

Choose your offbeat instrument: Kayu's Ecuadoran *charango* is based on an armadillo shell, while Boss Guitars sells a ukulele built from a cigar box.

pleasures of Scotland's own Caledonia double dark ale come Christmas Eve. It's $4 a bottle at Kerrytown's Partners in Wine and comes highly recommended. The store also carries an organic Scottish ale called Golden Promise that's "naturally brewed with organically grown barley and hops." Finally, something bad for you that's good for you.

If you should happen to know someone who's into money *and* origami, pick up a copy of *The Buck Book* for $13 at Kerrytown's Mudpuddles. With directions on how to turn dollar bills into peacocks, bow ties, elephants, and more, it gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "folding money." Best of all, it includes a real dollar bill to get you started.

Hey, they still make Silly Putty! And it still comes in those little plastic eggs. Of course, most kids I know use scanners and color printers these days, so I don't know how impressed they'd be if I told them it was possible to make a copy of a newspaper comic strip by applying a glob of Silly Putty to it and then carefully peeling the stuff away. On the other hand, knowing it was still around made me smile, and at $2.25 it'll make a great stocking stuffer for baby boomers.

People who drink tea by the potful know how hard it is to keep a teapot warm. John Leidy, on Liberty, has the answer: tea cozies. Decorative padded covers that slip over the pot to hold in the heat, they're $25. You don't see too many in this country, but in civilized nations like England, Canada, and most other members of the British Commonwealth, a teapot without a proper tea cozy is, quite simply, unthinkable.

Squid-inspired jewelry? Maynard Street jewelry designer Matthew C. Hoffmann says he once was reading Peter Benchley's *The Beast,* and the description of the squid's languid, tentacled movement got him thinking about a new way to design his pieces. The result is a fascinating line of gold necklaces and bracelets that appear to expand and contract as the wearer moves. They start at $600. If you're looking for something less adventurous, one-of-a-kind sterling silver earrings, pendants, and rings start at $150.

Boss Guitars on William sells used and vintage instruments. You can pick up a used acoustic guitar in great shape starting at $100—or, for the cigar lover on your list, you might consider a cigar-box ukulele. They're handmade by a local craftsman from real cigar boxes, no two are alike, and they go for $100. They tend to sell out quickly, but Boss can refer you to the guy who makes them.

And for the armadillo lover on your list, consider a *charango* from Kayu on Liberty. A charango is a traditional stringed instrument from Ecuador that looks like a cross between a guitar and an armadillo. That's because the body of the instrument is actually made from a real armadillo shell. It's $129. For those on a budget, $5 gets you a bamboo flute that should slip nicely into anyone's stocking.

Nestled among the water pipes, hash pipes, and rolling papers at Shiva Moon you'll find an honest-to-goodness cigarette rolling machine. It's the size of a Palm Pilot, it goes for $10, and while none of the customers I talked to could verify this, I understand that it works quite well with tobacco. Those on intimate terms with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency might like a coffee-can stash holder. It looks like a two-pound can of Folgers, but the coffee goes only a few centimeters deep before you hit a false bottom. Turn the can over, unscrew the base, and you've got the perfect hiding place for all kinds of things. It's $15 a can, which is pretty much on a par with coffeehouse prices.

Speaking of coffee, Barclay's II in

PHOTOS: *CHARANGO,* J. ADRIAN WYLIE; UKULELE, GREGORY FOX

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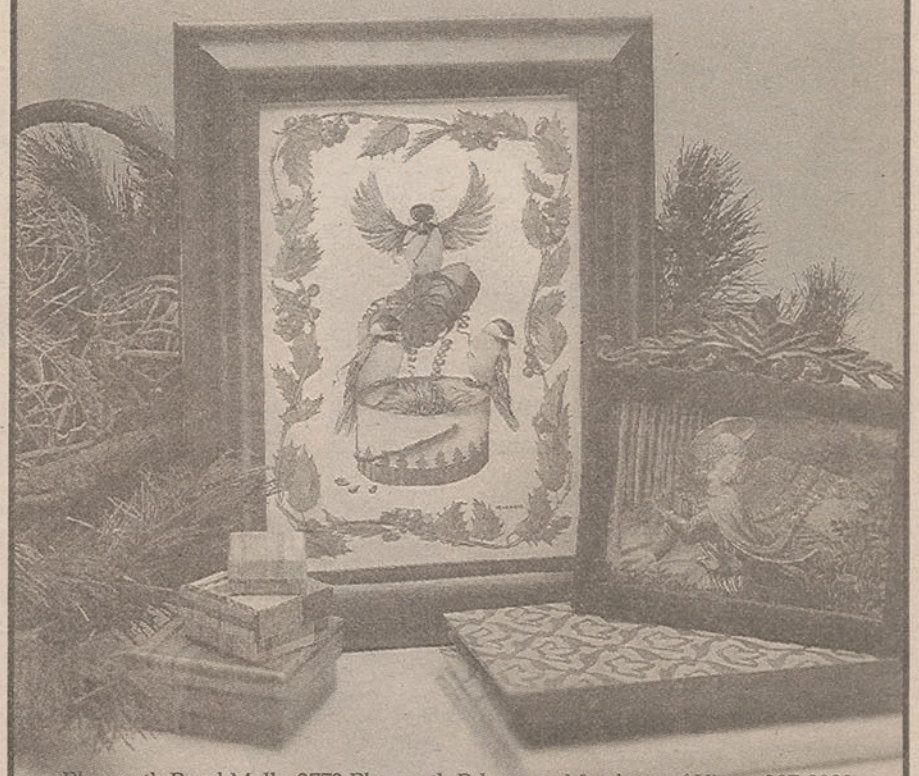

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Nickels Arcade carries beautiful framed reproductions of vintage advertising posters for coffee, cafes, champagne, and more. Prices start at $150. Original covers of issues of *Fortune* from the 1930s go for $245 framed and $35 unframed. Oddly enough, the stylized illustrations look a lot like those old Soviet-era posters that extolled the socialist work ethic while calling for the fall of capitalism. Think of it as antique irony.

When it comes to gifts, people are divided as to which is better: quality or quantity. CD box sets are a great way to give both, and they're not limited to music. At Wazoo, upstairs on State Street, you can get a Richard Pryor boxed set for $78. Would you believe he recorded *nine* CDs' worth of stand-up material? For the *Star Wars* fan, get the series boxed set—four CDs, featuring music from all four films, for just $26. (And if you ever get the chance, check out the main title from Erich Wolfgang Korngold's sound track for the classic 1941 movie *Kings Row*. You'll hear just about every hook John Williams ever wrote. I'm not pointing any fingers, I'm just saying.)

GREGORY FOX

Groovy Girls dolls at White Rabbit have none of Barbie's body image problems.

If you thought a walking stick was just a stick, think again. Like everything else having to do with the great outdoors, walking sticks have gone high tech. At Bivouac on State, there's a Leki three-piece telescoping trekking pole, adjustable by centimeters, that's so sophisticated it comes with an eight-page instruction manual. Not high tech enough? Consider this: it's the first walking stick I've ever seen that comes with a patented turbo disc (for adjusting the strap). You can hike out the door with one for $130.

Like everything else having to do with the great outdoors, walking sticks have gone high tech. At Bivouac on State, there's a Leki three-piece telescoping trekking pole, adjustable by centimeters, that's so sophisticated it comes with an eight-page instruction manual.

Remember how George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* was always complaining about that drafty old house and how it was no wonder Zuzu was always catching a cold? What George Bailey needed was a draft stopper. It's a long, sand-filled pillow that you lay along the bottom of a door to keep the wind out. Bed Bath and Beyond at Arborland has holiday-themed draft stoppers, including one shaped like Santa Claus.

For parents who think playtime should be educational, Toys R Us has Twist & Shout math games that are a lot like those "Bop It" batons, only instead of calling out instructions to "hit it," "twist it," and "turn it," this one shouts addition and subtraction questions. It's a little nerve racking—sort of like an oral pop quiz—but it's fun, and it's $18. In the same vein, why get a regular, boring old hopping ball (the kind with a handle so your toddler can bounce up and down while straddling it) when for $30 you could foster multilingualism with a ball that babbles in English and Spanish? On my way out, I spotted an old friend from my childhood: Candy Land, $6.99. I don't think this game teaches kids much of anything beyond color matching, except possibly that candy rules, but I remember having a good time with it. There's also an updated electronic version for sale for $35. On that one, you don't move pieces around a board—you move yourself around a big, talking mat.

I remember pea coats and miniskirts the first time they were in fashion, but to anyone under thirty, they're fresh stuff. Old Navy has a hooded, camel-colored pea coat just like the ones you see in thrift shops, only this one isn't pilled yet. It's $58. I also saw a $20 red-and-black plaid miniskirt made of polyester and "recycled" wool that looked like something Lulu would have worn in *To Sir with Love*.

Some people think giving money instead of a gift is kind of crass, but collectible coins are a different story. For one thing, you don't go out and spend them on something you *really* wanted. And for an-

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other, they appreciate over time. Investment Rarities of Michigan, in Lamp Post Plaza, has American eagle silver dollars for $12 each. They've never been in circulation—in fact, they've been taken directly from the original mint tubes with gloved hands and placed in protective sleeves, so they're incredibly shiny and perfect looking. One side features Adolph Weinman's classic "Walking Liberty" design used on half dollars from 1916 to 1947; the other side has a heraldic eagle. There's also a gold version, and the price fluctuates daily, so you can get some of the feeling of playing the commodities market. When I was there, a tenth-of-an-ounce coin sold for $50.

Harry Potter board games. Harry Potter card games. Harry Potter action figures, bookmarks, stationery, key chains, posters, stickers, clothing—even, from what I understand, Harry Potter books. Every toy store in town is packed with Harry Potter merchandise, like the Harry Potter Lego set I found at White Rabbit Toys in Woodland Plaza. Sets range from the relatively modest House of Gryffindor with cardboard backdrop ($11) to the ambitious $90 replica of Hogwarts Castle complete with trap doors, secret stairways, and the evil Voldemort (he glows in the dark).

And check out White Rabbit's line of Groovy Girls: hip, mop-haired rag dolls that come in all shapes, colors, and sizes and don't have Barbie's body image problems. This year's dolls start at $10, and they all have "S" names like Sarita, Sesilia, Shika, and Sidra. They come with all kinds of clothes and accessories, too, from a "pinkadelic" vinyl raincoat with fur collar to a "swank seat" that looks like a miniature club chair straight out of the Pottery Barn catalog.

Who hasn't plopped a piping hot green bean casserole smack dab into the middle of a signed, limited-edition lithograph, having mistaken it for a trivet? Well, that blunder won't happen again, thanks to the Counter Art trivets I saw at Ace Barnes Hardware on Stadium. These trivets look just like paintings, right down to the dark red rectangular "frame" painted around the edges. They come in different styles to suit different decors, from an elegant still life with pears and plums to a cheerful barnyard scene perfect for a country kitchen. They're $20, dishwasher safe, and shatter resistant.

One of the best gifts I ever got was a Dremel MultiPro variable-speed rotary tool. It sands, buffs, polishes, grinds, and engraves, but the wafer-thin cutoff wheels will make you a true believer. With a top speed of 35,000 revolutions per minute, the wheels slice right through everything from broken bolts to copper pipe, so they're lifesavers when you're doing home plumbing jobs in hard-to-reach areas. Stadium Hardware has a MultiPro kit that includes the rotary tool, seventy-two accessories, and a storage case for $80, or you can start small with a single-speed Dremel and ten accessories for $40.

Choose your message: "Less is more" as interpreted at Dixboro General Store (above) and at Bebe in Briarwood (left).

When my son was an infant, I could always entertain him by putting a sock over my hand and making it "talk," Señor Wences style. Now that he's a toddler, Señor Wences scares him, and if I think about the man too much, Señor Wences scares me too. So these days it's off with the socks and on with the Folkmanis puppets from Nicola's Books. They're big, plush animal puppets that range from $11 to $50, and they even include a snow leopard and a mastodon.

"Batteries not included" is pretty much a given anytime you buy a gift that needs them, so do yourself a favor and stock up ahead of time. That way you won't be scrambling desperately to pry a couple of ancient AAs out of an old Walkman on Christmas morning while your child's tears are welling up. The best place to stock up is the Dollar Tree in Maple Village, where batteries of all sizes go for a buck a package. Dollar Tree is also a place for stocking stuffers: little high-bounce balls, bath toys, kitchen utensils, and, of course, needle-nose pliers.

One of my most enduring childhood memories is of helping my dad put my sister's bike together one Christmas Eve. It seemed to take forever, and when we were through there were still half a dozen miscellaneous nuts and bolts left over. I wouldn't have ridden that bike on a bet, and the really scary part is that my dad was an engineer. Today, mercifully, most bikes come already assembled, and at Play It Again Sports they're a good deal. The selection of used bikes varies, but when I was there I saw a $30 Huffy and a $150 Trek, which can run as much as $300 new.

Learning Express has incredibly professional-looking play cookware for kids, including a twenty-one-piece bakeware set for $40 that looks better than anything I've got in my kitchen. For another $130 you can get a wood range with painted-on burners. And don't forget the faux food: $18 gets you your choice of a plastic sandwich set, ten-entree dinner, or full breakfast.

In Traver Village, Letty's has holiday-themed sweatshirts, tees, and dickeys, as well as cheerful Christmas tree costume jewelry that should get anyone into a holiday mood. Pins start at $95 for a simply decorated gem and run up to $225 for an oversize brooch with all the bejeweled trimmings.

The Dixboro General Store has candles, deliberately faded alphabet blocks, and country-inspired decorations like reproduction antique wooden signs. They're meant to look as though they've been hanging outside for decades. There are signs that say "Livery," "Stable," and "Carriage House," but my favorite sends a message that resonates especially strongly at this time of year: "Simplify." It's $40.

Now you can fill someone's house with the uplifting smell of freshly washed sheets without having to actually go over and do the laundry. Origins, the natural beauty products store at Briarwood, sells a whole line of lotions, soaps, colognes, and even candles with what the manufacturer calls its "famous" Clean Sheets fragrance. Whether or not it will smell like clean sheets to you will probably depend on

PHOTOS: SIGN, GREGORY FOX; CORSET, J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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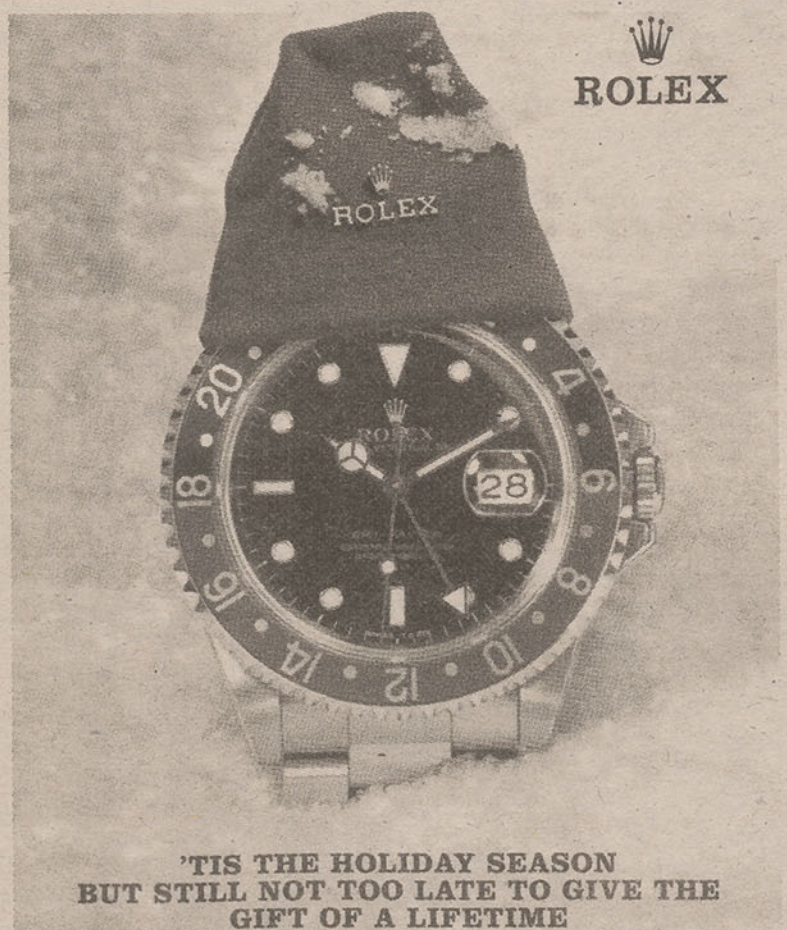

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Like undulating underwater broccoli: a frogspawn coral at Coral Reef of Ann Arbor.

what detergent you use and, of course, your personal hygiene habits, but the mixture of cedar, grapefruit, rose, bergamot, and other ingredients definitely reminded me of freshly laundered linen.

A different kind of offbeat chemistry is at work at Structure, where high-pressure water jets and bleach are used to turn brand-new denim trousers into faded, beat-up blue jeans. It's hard to keep in mind that these are new pants—they look as if they'd been worn to break horses every day for ten years, right down to those faded creases that appear with time at the top of the leg and behind the knee. They're $68. To quote the salesman, "They're so eighties!"

Not just anybody could pull off a fashion statement like a black satin corset that laces up the back. You can wear it with or without straps, and it's $229 at Bebe, the trendy women's clothier whose L.A. boutique outfits the stars. For the more conservative dresser who still likes to look hip, Bebe has androgynous-looking pinstripe suits with contrast stitching and deliberately asymmetrical hemlines, around $400. Think Annie Lennox, listing to port.

If listening to Sean "Puffy" Combes isn't enough, you can always try looking like him. He's got a new line of casualwear at OTD. For $110 you can get an oversized burgundy sweater with camel-colored trim that's covered with words like "rich," "different," "sexy," "clean," and "classic." It comes with matching cap ($28) and wide-legged jeans ($88), similarly labeled.

A lot of people read the Williams-Sonoma catalog primarily for the recipes, so the store finally wised up and compiled its classics into a new, four-volume cookbook collection that goes for $68. It's the start of a series and features chicken dishes, pasta, salads, and soups. For cooks who enjoy the drama of open flame, how about a miniature blowtorch, $30, perfect for caramelizing sugar on a crème brûlée or finishing a tart. (It's also handy for keeping kibitzers out of the kitchen if you've got one too many cooks spoiling your soup.)

You'll find more gadgets at Brookstone, like a $35 programmable electronic nameplate for office workers who are into personal branding, and a $45 talking photo album that lets you record a nineteen-second message on each page (because sometimes twenty seconds are too many, and eighteen just aren't enough). My favorite here was a pair of wireless headphones for use with a TV or stereo, $99. They're perfect for those nights when your spouse wants to flip channels because she can't sleep and you really don't need to hear how you can make millions of dollars placing classified ads in newspapers all over the country.

Speaking of TV, the Discovery Channel Store has amazing "B.I.O. Bugs" that look like huge robotic roaches. They employ infrared technology, so they can run on energy from household appliances like your microwave, TV remote, or fluorescent lights. Or you can use your B.I.O. Bug's dedicated wrist transmitter. The box says that its "special Follow Me technology" also enables it to follow you around wherever you go. Consider me creeped out. They're $40 each.

More sensual than it looks? A potter's wheel of one's own, at Yourist Pottery Studio.

For lower-tech fun, check out the Nature Station, a miniature ecosystem with self-watering tray, germination trays, seed packs, mix wafers, litmus paper, and a forty-page activity booklet. For $20, it's sort of like having your own tiny biosphere in your living room, only you get to leave whenever you want.

Just when you think you've seen enough wizards, you might stumble on some more at the San Francisco Music Box Company. There's a wizard snow globe for $20

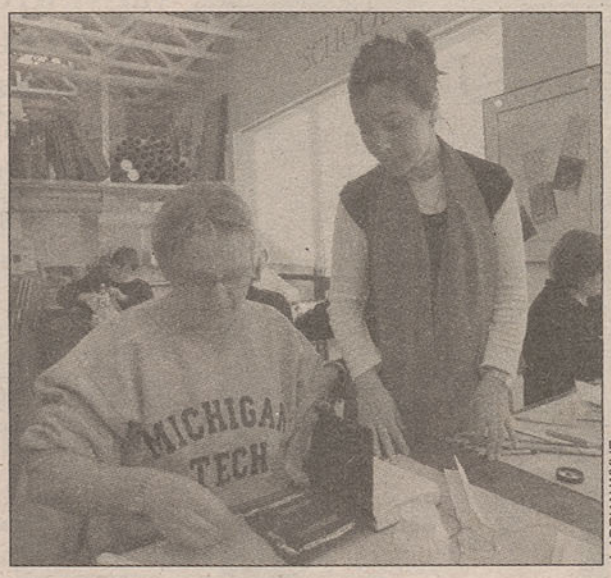
PHOTOS GREGORY FOX

Crafty ideas

Making your own gifts, fearlessly

Probably more of us would create, rather than buy, holiday gifts if we had (1) the time and (2) the confidence. Happily, there are places around town that can help us overcome the fear that a gift might look too "homemade." As an added benefit, expressing your creativity can provide a relaxing alternative to fighting crowds at the malls.

"Lots of people really appreciate homemade gifts—some more than others," said a woman named Louise during a Saturday morning workshop at Hollander's, the Kerrytown paper arts store. Louise said she regularly drives to Ann Arbor from her home in Haslett to take classes at Hollander's School of Book and Paper Arts. She recently learned the Japanese technique of *washi* paper art—decorating objects with rice paper (in this case a hollow egg). After only ninety minutes Louise had created a dazzling ornament that looked as if she had spent hours hand painting it.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

A bookbinding workshop at Hollander's School of Book and Paper Arts in Kerrytown.

Hollander's December classes include learning how to make "omega stars"—three-dimensional, six-piece origami ornaments. You can also make snazzy photo albums with brass posts or ribbon binding, or bind remembrances from your family into a book. Workshops cost from $10 to about $70. There is often a waiting list, but if you're comfortable setting off on your own, the store also sells kits and materials. Owner Tom Hollander speculates that the interest in paper arts may be part of a trend, "a backlash against technology and commercialism."

At Rainbow Creation, at the corner of Main and Stadium in what for decades was Schneider's gas station, customers can decorate ready-made mugs, plates, figurines, and other bisqueware with artistic guidance close at hand. (Bisqueware is clay that has been formed and fired to hold its shape.)

"We can help people choose color blends, contrasts, and textures to achieve a certain effect," explains owner Connie Colwell. Afterwards, the studio glazes and fires the pieces for the customer to pick up about a week later. The studio is holding special holiday "Paint Till You Faint" evenings on December 5, 6, 12, and 13 (adults only). The cost of supplies for most projects ranges from $18 to $30. Call 665–1910 to sign up.

Feat of Clay, the Ann Arbor Art Center's drop-in bisqueware-painting program, will focus on holiday gifts during this month's Sunday afternoon sessions, December 9, 16, 23, and 30. Projects ($12 each) include Santa snack plates and gifts that celebrate the African American Kwanzaa holiday. Sessions are held on the third floor of the Art Center on West Liberty.

The Art Center also offers a minimarathon of gift workshops on four consecutive Sundays, December 2, 9, 16, and 23. Make the gift (a winter scene in a jar) during the first session, and make the wrapping, decorative toppings, and card in subsequent sessions. Cost is $12 per session.

Walking into the Bead Gallery on East Liberty is like walking into an imperial treasure trove, with thousands of crystals and baubles glittering under the lights. Self-sufficient customers can walk in and buy beads and supplies; those who could use some help can sign up for classes that range from basic stringing to three-dimensional wire working. Potential gifts include necklace and earring sets, charm bracelets, and wine glass charms—individualized clusters of beads that can be attached to wine glass stems so you can keep track of whose glass is whose at a party. Classes require preregistration (call 663–6800) and cost from $10 to $40 (not including materials).

—Kate Kellogg

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that plays the theme from *Somewhere in Time* after you wind it up. A snow globe with a more elaborate tableau costs $50; it features a wizard and dragon standing on a bed of what look like rose quartz crystals, and it plays "Some Enchanted Evening." For traditionalists, there's also a line of *Wizard of Oz* music boxes.

In the same mystic mode, treat someone to an aura reading at the Aura Light

For the more conservative dresser who still likes to look hip, Bebe has androgynous-looking pinstripe suits with contrast stitching and deliberately asymmetrical hemlines, around $400. Think Annie Lennox, listing to port.

kiosk. Using either a video camera or a hand device, the station uses biofeedback to "read" your aura, the energy field that's thought to reflect your physical and emotional well-being. If your reading turns up a problem, Aura Light also sells books, healing crystals, aromatherapy oils, and other remedies. A verbal reading is $5; a twenty-page printout is $30. Gift certificates are available.

I don't know anyone who has a coral reef tank, but I wish I did, because the frog-spawn coral at Coral Reef of Ann Arbor is one of the coolest things I've seen in a long time. At $55, it looks very much like undulating underwater broccoli. If you prefer pets with faces, the store has plenty of fresh- and salt-water fish. Get someone started with a beginner setup. $140 buys you a ten-gallon aquarium with hood, heater, thermometer, dechlorinator, and gravel. The fish are extra.

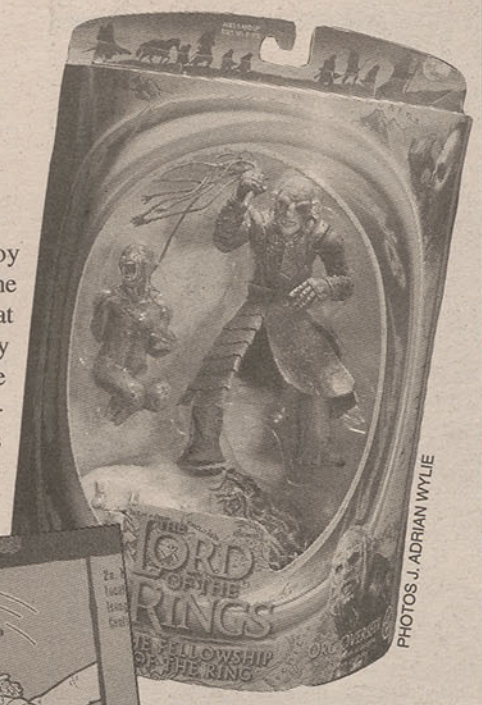
I know people who still talk wistfully about learning to throw pots a decade after they saw that scene in *Ghost*. You know the scene. Yeah, that scene. Uh huh. Anyway, you can get them started with a pottery wheel from Yourist Pottery Studio for $595. If you want to start smaller, how about pottery classes? Eight-week sessions are available for all ages and interests; they run from $60 to $155.

Well, it looks as if this is about as far as I can take you; the trail I marked ends here. Remember, there's still a lot of unexplored country out there, and a lot of great gift ideas, if you know where to look. So good luck to you, and keep your powder dry.

As for me, I've got to go pour some concrete footers.

"Pokémon and the devil"

Navigating the "violent toy" debate



PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Life-size toy guns have gotten scarce, and concerned parents can always remove G.I. Joe's weapons—but what about an Orc Overseer action figure, complete with instructions for initiating "whipping action"?

Rodney McGirt played with toy guns when he was a kid, but he doesn't want his two sons to. "I feel that playing with toy guns can eventually lead someone to want to play with the real thing," explained McGirt, interviewed at Arborland's Toys R Us while staking out possible Christmas presents with his wife, Lisa, in November.

The McGirts' sons, who are nine and three years old, love G.I. Joe toys. The couple's solution? They buy the toys "and remove all the little guns and accessories," Rodney says. Doesn't this frustrate his kids? "No," he says. "They just make more car noises."

While there are still plenty of action figures wielding miniature weapons at Toys R Us and other stores around town, you're not likely to find many life-size toy guns. Toys R Us stopped selling them nationwide after police several times mistook them for real guns and shot the children who were carrying them. Under Michigan law, any Ann Arbor kid who walks into school with one—even accidentally—faces immediate expulsion.

Though the McGirts are glad not to see toy guns, they seem even more concerned about some of the frightening action toys they find on the shelves. "They're worried about guns, but they put stuff like this out," commented Rodney, picking an Orc Overseer off the shelf to illustrate. "I just don't get it." The package contains a demonic old man with pointy teeth and a whip standing over what appears to be a bloody green and yellow half-corpse (actually a newborn orc) whose face is contorted with pain. The back of the box includes "instructions for whipping action." The toy, part of the McFarlane Toys series based on *Lord of the Rings,* is suggested for ages five and up. The Stan Winston Creatures product line around the corner features other scary characters like the four-headed Jyaaku the Nightmare and The Visitor: The Day the World Ended—also recommended for ages five and up.

Across town at the Maple Village Kmart, an employee in her sixties who calls herself a "straightener" expresses similar consternation. "I just don't understand these," she says of some of the action figures she was arranging. "When I grew up, we had Batman, and that was good enough. Now you have Batman fighting all these weird creatures I don't recognize. From now on I'm just going to give my kids gift certificates to buy things for my grandkids. I don't want to cause any trouble."

Ausma Hoseney, a customer in her fifties, calls the plastic action figures "junk"—but nonetheless buys one for her nephew's birthday. It's a Spiderman set called Torment that includes Spiderman and a demonic-looking bad guy for him to fight. When asked whether she thinks the set is violent, she says, "No. It's not violent. It's just stupid. What's violent is the wrestling on TV that my daughter watches with my husband. They're hitting people over the head with chairs and trash cans—now that's violent. She knows it's fake, though."

The mother of two children, Hoseney says she thinks a lot of the debate about "violent" toys is "a matter of common sense.

"What I want to know about is Pokémon and the devil," she adds.

Pokémon and the devil?

"Oh, some preacher down south somewhere said Pokémon is a tool of the devil," she explains. "Now that's a crock. The whole idea of Pokémon is they're trying to save the world."

—Madeline Strong Diehl, with research by Charmie Gholson

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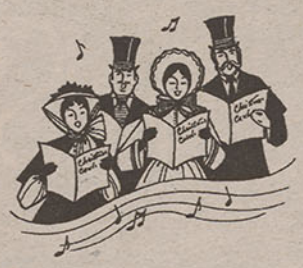
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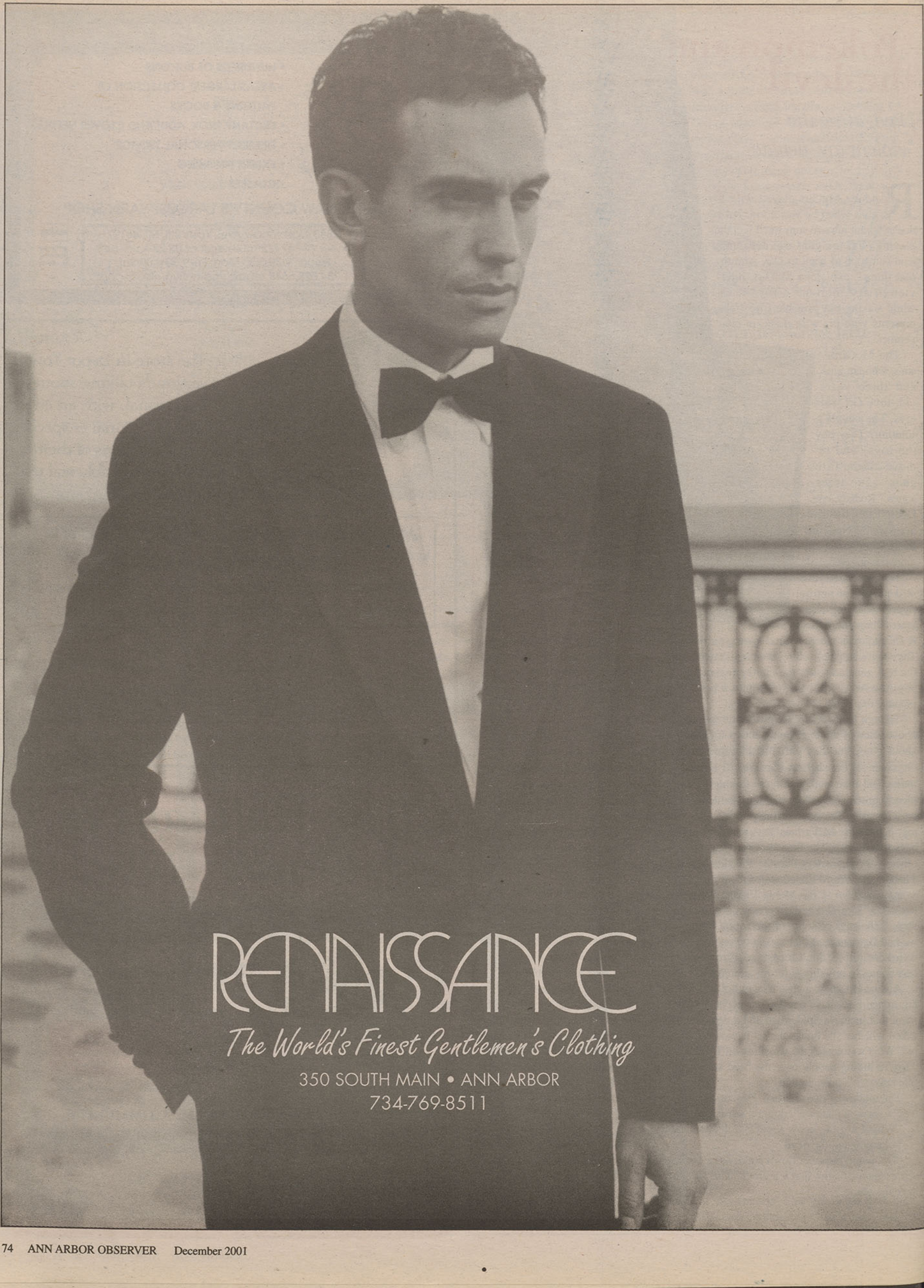
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DECEMBER EVENTS

We want to know about your event!

Who to write to:
Mail press releases to John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. (There is an after-hours drop box at the front door.) **NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE, but faxes are welcome or send e-mail to events@arborweb.com.** Fax numbers are: **769–3375 or 769–4950. The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available on arborweb: http://www.arborweb.com.**

What gets in?

With few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the address and telephone of a contact person. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by Monday, December 10, will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in.

★ *Denotes no admission charge.*

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 SATURDAY

★**T'ai Chi.** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Local martial arts instructor Gabriel Chin leads a session of t'ai chi, which combines an exaggeratedly slow martial art and meditation. *8 a.m., the Cube, north side of Michigan Union. Free. 761–3272.*

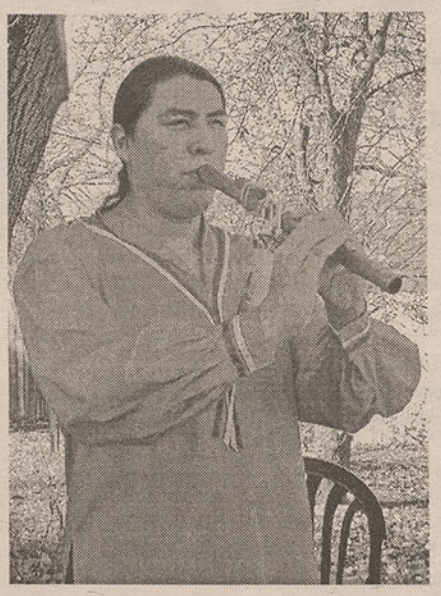
Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Historical Society. *December 1 & 2.* Sale of decorations, toys, gifts, clothing, and holiday crafts. Bake sale. Proceeds benefit Dexter's historical museum. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 1), 1–3 p.m. (Dec. 2), Dexter Museum, 3443 Inverness at Fourth, Dexter. Free admission. 426–2519.*

Holiday Bazaar: Saline Senior Center. Local seniors sell handmade holiday craft items. Also, raffles for an exquisite cross-stitched quilt and a tree skirt. Bake sale. Lunch and snacks available. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Saline Senior Center, 7605 N. Maple (behind the police station), Saline. Free admission. 429–9274.*

Saline Community Education Craft Show. Juried show of works by 125 crafters from around the Midwest. Christmas greens available. Bake sale, raffle, food concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7286 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. $2. 429–5922.*

★**14th Annual Festival of Lights: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** *November 30–December 2.* This popular community celebration offers a variety of family activities and gingerbread house displays in downtown shop windows. Today's special events: **lunch with Santa** and **a magic show** by Jedd Boyer ($22 for a parent & child, $10 per additional adult, $6 per additional child) at the Washington Street Education Center, 500 Washington St. (11 a.m.–1 p.m.). Also, a visit from **Santa** (1–4 p.m.) and a **Yule Tree Gala** (noon–5 p.m.) at the Chelsea Center for the Development of the Arts (400 Congdon), and a **twilight home tour** ($15) that begins at 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 121 E. Middle. Also, **artists' shop,** and **live music** throughout downtown. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.*

★**Ann Arbor Platform Tennis Club.** *Every Saturday.* All invited to try this sport that combines tennis and racquetball played outdoors on a raised, heated, fenced-in platform. Equipment provided. Instruction available. Wear sneakers and dress in layers. Refreshments. *Related event:* a potluck (bring a dish to pass) and **evening play** (December 14, 7 p.m.). *9:30 a.m.–noon, Huron Valley Tennis Club, 3235 Cherry Hill Rd. (take Plymouth Rd. to Dixboro Rd. and turn right on Cherry Hill Rd.). Free to first-time visitors. 761–6900.*



Lee Black Bear, Dec. 8

The Glass Menagerie, Dec. 1, 2, & 6–8

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105 **GALLERY REVIEW**
Christmas Shopping circa 1900 Laura Bien

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107 **NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE** John Hinchey

107 **NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW**
Rick Roe's Bop Culture Piotr Michalowski

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83 **THE MASTER OF MUSICAL SEDUCTION**
Christian Matjias plays the music of Phillip Carout Lucien Chardon

91 **LAURIE LEWIS & TOM ROZUM**
Winter's grace James M. Manheim

99 ***GUYS ON ICE***
Fargo on ice Sonia Kovacs

132 **EVENTS AT A GLANCE**

Waleed Howrani, Dec. 2

Joel Mabus, Dec. 1 & 15

Annual Children's Festival and Holiday Bazaar: Rudolf Steiner School. The entire school is transformed into a children's festival. There's an activity room that features crafts for kids and a children-only gift room with donated goods priced for kids' budgets. One room offers Waldorf toys, which emphasize natural, nonplastic materials and creative crafts and arts equipment. Also, puppet storytelling and an artisan market bazaar. Faculty and staff are on hand to answer questions about the school. Lunch available, including lasagna by Cousins Heritage Inn and dishes by area restaurants. *9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission (parking, $2). 995–4141.*

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. (Sat. only) & 1 p.m. (both days), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 913–9851.*

★**"Getting Ready for Winter: A Hike for Children": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look for and talk about the ways plants and animals are preparing for winter. Games. Followed by hot drinks. *10 a.m., County Farm Park, Medford Rd. lot. Free. 971–6337.*

★**"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day.** This family-oriented dinosaur program includes hands-on activities for kids, demonstrations, and more. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. Free. 764–0478.*

"Winter Celebration": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All invited to make tree decorations, gift wrap, note cards, and more using a variety of beautiful objects from nature. *10 a.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $15 (members, $13.50). 998–7061.*

★**"12th Annual Day Without Art": U-M Museum of Art.** *November 30 & December 1.* In recognition of World AIDS day, the museum drapes a number of works in black mourning cloth to acknowledge the wealth of creativity lost because of the severe impact of AIDS on the international arts community. Also, a poetry reading (November 30, noon) and a U-M student dance performance (December 1, 11 a.m.). The gallery at U-M Pierpont Commons also observes a "Day Without Art." *10 a.m.–5 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

Artist Open Studio and Holiday Sale. Show and sale of works by local artists, including ornaments, jewelry, pottery, fiber art, glassworks, metal sculpture, and more. Also, a rare chance to "peruse art studios in Ann Arbor's last bastion of seedy factory studio settings." Cookies, cider. Partial proceeds benefit Oasis Art Center. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 111 Third St. Free admission. 623–8496.*

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. *December 1 & 2.* A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics, in porcelain and both regular and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with toys, jewelry, and other gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 201 Hill St. Free admission. 663–4970.*

"The Himalayan Bazaar in My Garage." *December 1, 8, 15, & 22.* Sale of a wide range of unique Nepali gift items by Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas as owner of the local tour business Of Global Interest. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free admission. 769–1875.*

Winter Sale: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. *December 1 & 2.* Handwoven clothing, baskets, toys, beadwork, handmade paper, felted hangings, yarns, dolls, and quilts. Also, demos of fiberarts techniques. Proceeds from ornament sales benefit SAFE House. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 475–4651.*

"A Christmas Walk Through Historic Earhart Manor": Concordia University. *November 30–December 4.* All invited to enjoy the splendor of this 1935 English-style country manor, currently home to Concordia administration, built by former local gasoline baron Harry Earhart. It features secret panels and hidden passageways linking rooms and floors, a

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Concert Web Site (including student recital information): www.music.umich.edu/events/index.html

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Saturday, Dec. 1
3:00 PM

CHAMBER CHOIR WITH THE DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA • Orchestra Hall (3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit) • Nicholas McGegan, conductor. • The UM Chamber Choir will perform Handel's *Messiah* with the DSO. For ticket information, call 313-576-5111.

Sunday, Dec. 2
4:00 PM

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE • McIntosh Theatre • Program will include works by Miki, Abe, and Udow and feature Tomoko Azuma, David Endahl, and Jason Markzon, marimba soloists.

Sunday, Dec. 2
2:30 PM

MICHIGAN MARCHING BAND CRISLER CONCERT • Crisler Arena
Tickets available at Revelli Hall, M-Den locations, or at the door; $8/adult, $3/children (11 and under) • MMB performing traditional Michigan songs and highlights from the current season.

Monday, Dec. 3
8:00 PM

COMPOSERS' FORUM • Britton Recital Hall
Compositions by University of Michigan student composers.

Mon.–Tue., Dec. 3–4
8:00 PM

JAZZ COMBOS • Rehearsal Hall, School of Music • Directed by Roland Vazquez
Works by Porter, Shorter, Henderson, Hino, and student works.

Tuesday, Dec. 4
8:00 PM

MICHIGAN CHAMBER WINDS • Britton Recital Hall
Program will include octets by Beethoven, Mozart, and Jacob.

Tuesday, Dec. 4
8:00 PM

UNIVERSITY CHOIR AND ARTS CHORALE • Hill Auditorium • Sandra Snow and Alissa Mercurio, conductors. • Program will include works by Handel, Bruckner, Mozart, Verdi, Aguiar, and Copland.

Wed.–Thu., Dec. 5–6
Wed 5:00 PM,
Thu. 7:00 PM

OPERA WORKSHOP SCENES • McIntosh Theatre • Joshua Major, director; Timothy Cheek, music director. • Four women perform a collection of Spanish, Czech, English, French, German, and Italian songs by women composers. Performance made possible with the help of the UM Women Composer's Collection.

Wed.–Thu., Dec. 5–6
Wed 7:00 PM,
Thu. 5:00 PM

OPERA WORKSHOP SCENES • McIntosh Theatre
Second-year opera workshop singers present staged excerpts from Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* and *Idomeneo,* Handel's *Ariodante,* and Britten's *Peter Grimes.*

Thursday, Dec. 6
8:00 PM

CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL • Britton Recital Hall
Student ensembles from the UM Chamber Music Program will perform.

Thu.–Sat., Dec. 6–8
8:00 PM

DANCE DEPARTMENT: DANCE AND RELATED ARTS PERFORMANCE • Betty Pease Studio Theatre • Collaborative performance projects created by choreography students. Tickets $5 at the door.

Thu.–Sun., Dec. 6–9
Thu.–Sat 8:00 PM,
Sun. 2:00 PM

THEATRE DEPARTMENT: *GRAPES OF WRATH* Adapted by Frank Galati from the novel by Steinbeck • Power Center • Directed by Darryl V. Jones. Ordinary people strive to preserve their humanity in the face of the vast inequities of the American experience. • Tickets required: 764-2538.

Thu.–Sun., Dec. 6–9
Thu.–Sat. 8:00 PM,
Sat. & Sun. 2:00PM

MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION OF *JULIUS CAESAR* by William Shakespeare.
Trueblood Theatre • Directed by Phillip Kerr, set by Gary Decker, lighting by Justin Bulson.
Tickets are required and free; call 764-2538.

Friday, Dec. 7
8:00 PM

FACULTY RECITAL: "AN EVENING OF MOZART AND BRAHMS" • Britton Recital Hall
Martin Katz, piano; Paul Kantor, violin; with Sören Hermansson and Carmen Pelton.

Friday, Dec. 7
8:00 PM

SYMPHONY BAND • Hill Auditorium • Michael Haithcock, conductor; with Damon Talley, guest conductor. • Program will include works by Purcell, Grainger, Schuller, Milhaud, and Copland.

Saturday, Dec. 8
8:00 PM

CONTEMPORARY DIRECTIONS ENSEMBLE • Britton Recital Hall • Jonathan Shames, conductor
Program will include works by Webern and Gubaidulina.

Saturday, Dec. 8
6:00 & 9:00 PM

WOMEN'S GLEE CLUB • UM Museum of Art • Sandra Snow, conductor
Program will include commissioned work by Stephen Rush and feature artistic design by UM faculty member Michael Rodemer. Tickets required; $5 through wgc.exec@umich.edu.

Sunday, Dec. 9
2:00 PM

HOLIDAY CARILLON RECITAL • Ann & Robert Lurie Tower
University Carillonist Margo Halsted and student performers play music of the holiday season.

Sunday, Dec. 9
8:00 PM

CAMPUS BAND • Hill Auditorium • David Papenhagen, conductor
Works by Grainger, Stamp, Bach, and Weinberger.

Monday, Dec. 10
8:00 PM

UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA • Hill Auditorium • Jonathan Shames, conductor.
Works by Stravinsky, Sibelius, and Bourgeois.

Tuesday, Dec. 11
8:00 PM

JAZZ ENSEMBLE • Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre • Ellen Rowe, conductor
Latin music and performances by Los Gatos and members of the UM Dance Department.

Wednesday, Dec. 12
8:00 PM

UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA • Hill Auditorium • Kenneth Kiesler, conductor
Program will include works by Wagner, Prokofiev, and Moussorgsky.

For details concerning above events, please refer to the Calendar of Events in the *Ann Arbor Observer* or call the School of Music Information Office at 764-0583 or the Events Hotline at 763-4726. Events are free and wheelchair accessible unless otherwise specified. The E.V. Moore Building houses Britton Recital Hall, McIntosh Theatre, and Blanche Anderson Moore Hall. The Moore Building is located on Baits Dr., North Campus (US 23 to Plymouth Rd., Plymouth to Broadway, Broadway to Baits).

EVENTS *continued*

room once used solely for arranging flowers, and rooms so spacious that a former closet is now a top Concordia administrator's office. Proceeds benefit a Concordia scholarship and a local charity TBA. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. CU campus, 4090 Geddes. Tickets $8 (students & seniors, $5; family of 4, $25). 995–7537.*

★18th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *November 30–December 3.* One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit includes creches (Nativity scenes) from more than 94 countries around the world, many of them new this year. The exhibit includes many of the creches bequeathed to the exhibit by Catherine Carroll, the well-known local pediatrician who died in 1997. One highlight of Carroll's collection is an 18th-century *presepio* (Baroque creche) in the tradition that was popular with the Neapolitan royalty and church. It features 9 wood-and-porcelain figures clothed in lavish miniature costumes. Overall, the exhibit includes almost 900 creches collected or made by women of the church. The majority of creches are displayed in a large hall with a 20-foot Christmas tree decorated with lights and Nativity balls. There are also smaller "walk-in" rooms devoted to Latin American, French, African, Americana, and miniature creches, and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, corn husks, leather, and metals, and styles range from simple childlike figures to hand-carved traditional figures to elegant original designs. They range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to creches with 18-inch figures in a French Santon village. *10 a.m.–9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 327–7692, 461–2893.*

★"Our Civil Liberties under Attack": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Michigan ACLU director Kary Moss discusses the Bill of Rights in relation to proposed antiterrorist legislation. Gray Panthers is an intergenerational group dedicated to improving life for people of all ages. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 663–6248.*

★Walk: Grex. *Every Saturday (different locations).* All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Park (December 1) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (December 8, 15, 22, & 29). *10:15 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park (Dec. 1) & in Gallup Park parking lot (Dec. 8, 15, 22, & 29), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 998–0194.*

★"String Theory": U-M Physics Department "Saturday Morning Physics." *December 1, 8, & 15.* Three talks by U-M physics research fellow Jan Pieter van der Scharr. Today: **"Quantum Mechanics vs. Einstein"** introduces the basic conflict between quantum mechanics and the theory of relativity, and the way in which string theory may one day unite them. Also this month: **"A World Made of Strings"** (December 8) examines the basics of string theory, and **"M Stands for Mystery"** (December 15) explores M-theory, which organizers call "the most exciting development in physics since string first appeared on the scene:" Part of a popular semester-long series of talks on cutting-edge research aimed at general audiences by U-M physicists. Breakfast refreshments. *10:30–11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison Bldg., 501 East University. Free. 764–4437.*

★"Mornings, Mochas, & Melodies": Pierce's Pastries Plus. *Every Saturday except December 29.* A series of concerts featuring up-and-coming local and visiting musicians. Today: a visit from **St. Nicholas,** who tells old-time Christmas stories with accompaniment by local harpist Laurel Federbush. Free candy. Also this month: country-folk originals by guitarist **Loyse** (December 8), Christmas music concert by the all-female vocal ensemble **Counterpoint** (December 15), and pop-folk originals by acoustic singer-songwriter **Dave Guimond** (December 22). *10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Pierce's Pastries Plus, 103 W. Middle St., Chelsea. Free. 327–2041.*

★Children's Safety Class: Keith Hafner's Karate. A 30-minute session for kids ages 4–10. Topics include basic self-defense techniques, handling negative peer pressure, dealing with bullies, and what to do if you're lost. Also, at noon, a 30-minute **Women's Self-Defense Class** for women and girls ages 7 and up that focuses on assault prevention and self-defense techniques. *11 a.m., Keith Hafner's Karate, 214 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–0333.*

★Tasting Tour Food Sampling: St. Joseph Mercy Health System. All invited to try dozens of tidbits of unusual yet surprisingly delicious foods from Who

Foods (Dec. 1) and Kroger (Dec. 8). Also, cooking demos (Dec. 1), recipes, and giveaways. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Health Stop, Briarwood mall. Free. 827–3777.*

★**Kids Events: Nicola's Books.** *December 1, 8, & 15.* Today: Local storyteller **Eric Engel** tells multicultural stories (December 1 & 8). Also, a December 15 appearance by children's book author **Lisa Wheeler,** who reads from *Wool Gathering: A Sheep Family Reunion,* her lighthearted collection of jokefilled poems for kids in grades K–3. *11 a.m.–noon, Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**Dexter's Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** *December 1 & 8.* The Dexter of yesteryear is resurrected as carolers stroll the streets and shopkeepers and others dress in Victorian costume. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (nominal fee TBA) available throughout the day. Santa is on hand to talk with kids and have photos taken with them for free. Today's special events: **holiday bazaars,** with demonstrations by a variety of craftspeople. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., gazebo downtown, near Monument Park, Dexter. Free admission. 426–7925.*

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play disc golf at Hudson Mills Metropark's 18-hole disc golf course. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) 434–1615.*

★**"Coffee and Linux."** *Every Saturday.* Chat with users of this free open-source computer operating system. *11 a.m.–2 p.m., The Linux Box, 206 S. Fifth Ave., Suite 350. Free. 761–4689.*

★**Multicultural Holiday Show: Liberty Borders.** Local puppeteer **Maureen Schiffman** brings her monkey puppet Coco for a show about the holiday traditions of Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, Ramadan, and Chinese New Year. *11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House "Croissant Concert." A popular holiday tradition featuring this ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs works with a food theme, including Holborne's "Old English Breakfast," Debussy's "Golliwog's Cakewalk," Baldwin's "Al's Breakfast," Fillmore's "The Ham Trombone," and more. Quintet members, who also offer commentary about the composers and works, include French hornist Steven Mumford, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer. Croissants, coffee, and juice served. *11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $9 & $12. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"Autumn Stars"/"Season of Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday through December 9. Autumn Stars* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the stars and planets visible in the autumn sky. *Season of Light* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays only and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. *Note:* A new planetarium show opens December 15 (see listing). *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3 (seniors and children 12 & under, $2). 764–0478.*

★**Reception: John Shultz Photography.** Opening reception for this exhibit (see Galleries) of John Shultz's pastels and oil paintings. *Noon–6 p.m., John Shultz, 206 S. Main. Free. 665–5988.*

"Herbs and Spices of Christmas Past": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. *December 1 & 2.* This 19th-century German immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Natural decorations of cedar, pinecones, nuts, flowers, and herbs festoon the main house, where guides in period costume explain holiday preparations that typically would have been going on in each room. Christmas music tinkles from the parlor melodeon as aromas of wild game, squash, and potatoes waft from the kitchen's woodstove. Live dulcimer music by an ensemble TBA. Hot spiced cider and cookies available in the farm's separate log cabin, decorated 1850s style. Also, a gift shop with old-fashioned toys, books, handmade soaps and candles, and other unique stocking stuffers. Refreshments. *Noon–5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) $1 admission. 426–9135.*

"A Kaleidoscope of Dance: 33rd Annual Holiday Dance": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. *December 1 & 2.* This local company of children and adult dancers performs a lively, wide-ranging sampler of various dance styles and music. Special guests this year are Broadway choreographer-dancer **Ed Kresley,** the local **Sole Full of Rhythm** tap dance ensemble, and the local **Lowell Street Boys** men's dance ensemble. Music by local jazz ensemble the **Rick Roe Trio.** Proceeds benefit the Salvation Army and local dance student scholarships. *12:30 & 4 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard. Tickets $16 (children 12 & under, $11) in advance in Ann Arbor at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium Blvd.) and the Salvation Army (100 Arbana); in Ypsilanti at the Randazzo Dance Studio (722 Lowell St.) and at the door. 482–6131.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Saturday & Tuesday.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. *1–3 p.m. (Sat.) & 7:30–9:30 p.m. (Tues.), location TBA. Free. 913–5831.*

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Museum staff give family-friendly demos about the reasons Frisbees fly, tops spin, and toy trains stay on their tracks in **"The Science of Toys."** Also, kids can try rolling, throwing, balancing, and floating toys for themselves. *1 & 3 p.m. (Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron. $7 (students & seniors, $5) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★**"Open Company Rehearsal": Peter Sparling Dance Company.** All invited to watch a rehearsal of new dance works in progress, including *Fast Forward Play Back,* to be premiered May 30, and *Patient Spider,* to be premiered January 30. *1:30–3:30 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 Third St. (off Huron). Free. 747–8885.*

★**"Wildlife in Winter": Waterloo Recreation Area.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh leads a hike to learn about how animals cope with the winter months. Dress for the weather. *2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Discovery Center is on the left.) Free. Space limited; preregistration required. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★**"How Do I Begin: Science Fair Ideas for Middle School Students": Ann Arbor District Library.** *December 1 & 4.* Talk by a Pfizer Research and Development research scientist TBA. *2–3 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 7–7:45 p.m. (Dec. 4), AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8323.*

★**Winnie-the-Pooh: Barnes & Noble.** A. A. Milne's beloved bear stops by to tell some of his stories. Parents welcome to bring their cameras. *2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**Lisa Hunter: Arborland Borders.** This popular local environmental singer-songwriter performs a musical **"Eco-Campfire."** *2 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–5549.*

★**Cajun/Zydeco Jam.** *December 1 & 15.* All musicians invited to join this lively jam. *2–5 p.m., Pittsfield Grange (downstairs), 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Free. 213–5209.*

★**Joel Mabus: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance.** This veteran folk musician, a multi-instrumental string virtuoso who appears at the Ark on December 15 (see listing), demonstrates guitar and banjo techniques for contra dance music. All invited to bring an instrument and join in. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange (upstairs), 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Free. 769–4220.*

★**"The Little Big Hill": Barnes & Noble.** Fiction writer **Robb Lucas** signs copies of his debut novel, a story about the 1971 Christmas cease-fire in Vietnam told from the point of view of soldiers on the ground. *3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**Region C Honors Choir: Michigan School Vocal Music Association.** Jonathan Reed leads 250 of the best high school singers from southeastern Michigan, including several Pioneer students, in a concert that includes Ralph Vaughan Williams's "Willow Song," Hans Hassler's "Verbum Caro Factum Est," J. S. Bach's "Der Herr segne euch," and more. *3 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994–2120.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Boston College. *3:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $20. 764–0247.*

★**"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** This popular monthly 6-hour festival of Japanese animation features episodes from TV shows and occasional full-length films. Today: episodes from the action-adventure car racing series ***Initial D*** and from ***Love Hina,*** a romantic comedy about a

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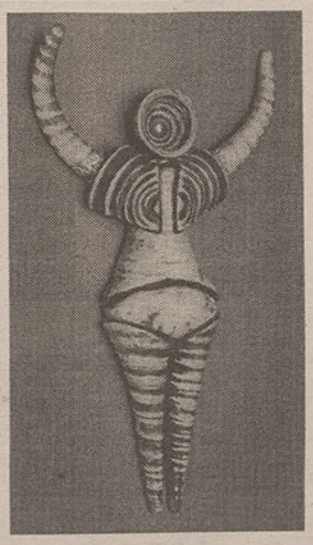

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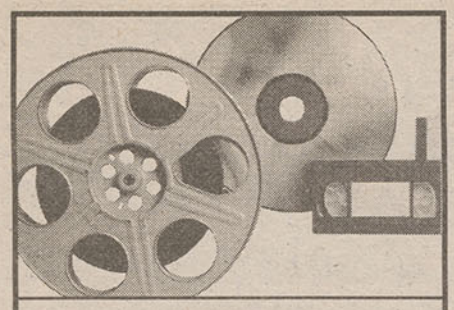

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"18th Annual Dinner Auction": Father Gabriel Richard High School. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and live and silent auctions of over 650 donated goods and services, including trips to Hawaii and Chicago, a snow train and sleigh ride vacation in Sault Ste. Marie, big screen TVs, tickets to Pistons games and other sports events, a Thomas Kinkade artwork, in-home dinners by local chefs, a Hagopian rug, furniture, and more. Proceeds benefit the school. *5 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $75. For reservations or to donate goods, call 662–4719.*

"2001 Odyssey": 26th Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball. This lavishly decorated gala includes cocktails and a gourmet dinner, followed by ballroom dancing to the Detroit-area band Cassens Murphy. This annual fund-raiser is one of the largest and most successful in the country. Proceeds benefit the hospital's ER renovation. *5 p.m., Michigan League. $1,000 & $1,250 per couple. Reservations required. 712–4040.*

"Jammin' for My Brothers": Bird of Paradise. Straight-ahead jazz by an ensemble that includes bassist (and Bird of Paradise owner) Ron Brooks, veteran Detroit jazz singer Judy Cochill, and 3 Detroit-area law enforcement officers: pianist Chuck Shermantero, drummer Jerry McKenzie, and saxophonist Jim Wyse. Ann Arbor police officer George Patak sits in on congas and other percussion. Proceeds donated to the New York Firefighters' Disaster Relief Fund. The quintet also performs later tonight at the Bird (see Nightspots). *5–8:30 p.m., Bird of Paradise, 312 S. Main. $10 minimum donation. 662–8310.*

2001 St. Nicholas Light Display: Domino's Farms. *Nightly through December 31.* This annual indoor-outdoor spectacular features over 3 million lights on Domino's Farms trees and enough electrical cable to, if stretched out, reach Dexter. Special displays include the Victorian Sleigh and Village and Iced Angel, as well as the Snowflake Tunnel, Noah's Ark, and many more. The indoor display includes a gingerbread house village, a hallway of trees lavishly decorated by area merchants, a display (expanded from last year) of creche scenes from around the world, a Winter Wonderland display with a rideable minitrain, and a chance to **visit Santa** (7–9 p.m. nightly). Proceeds benefit local charities. *5:30–10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 5:30–9:30 p.m. (Sun.–Thurs.), Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). $7 admission per vehicle (Fri.–Sun.) & $5 (Mon.–Thurs.). Buses: $100. 930–4430.*

★**"Grapevine": First Presbyterian Church.** All singles ages 40–60 invited to bring a dish to pass for a potluck dinner and conversation. This month's conversation-starter topic is **"Images and Memories That Shape Our Perceptions of Christmas."** Beverage and table setting provided. Also, if you'd like to join members of the group who are attending the UMS *Messiah* later this evening, make a reservation by November 28. *6–7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★**14th Annual Jewish Book Fair: Jewish Community Center.** *November 28–December 2.* Display and sale (at retail prices) of more than 2,000 new books by Jewish authors, ranging from cookbooks, expensive gift books, children's books, and reference books to books by local authors and new titles hot off the presses. (Publishers plan their releases for November, which is Jewish Book Month.) The fair also features a number of talks and performances by guest authors: Zvi Gitelman discusses ***A Century of Ambivalence: The Jews of Russia and the Soviet Union since 1881*** (November 28, 7:30 p.m.), renowned local Yiddish translator Aliza Shevrin reads from her translation of Sholem Aleichem's ***The Further Adventures of Menachem Mendl*** (November 29, 10 a.m.), local Jewish Cultural Center director Judith Seid discusses her ***God-Optional Judaism*** (November 29, 7:30 p.m.), local Jewish poets read **"Poems of the Season"** (December 1, 7 p.m.), freelance writer Jim Keen discusses his ***Guide to Jewish Interfaith Family Life*** (December 2, 11 a.m.), Emily Rose discusses her ***Portraits of Our Past: Jews of the German Countryside*** (December 2, 12:30 p.m.), and rabbi Lawrence Kushner discusses his book ***The Way into Jewish Mystical Tradition*** (December 2, 2 p.m.). Also, Maureen Schiffman and her puppet Coco host a children's **Havdalah pajama party** (December 1, 7 p.m.). Kids ages 3–10 invited to wear PJs and bring a teddy bear and a white pillowcase to decorate. *Note:* November fair times are 9 a.m.–9 p.m. (Nov. 28 & 29) & 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Nov. 30). *6–10 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 2), Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). All events free except the pajama party ($3) and the Rabbi Kushner talk ($5). 971–0990.*

WCPARC naturalist Matt Heumann is retiring at year's end, but you can take one more nature walk with him Dec. 2 or 9.

"Kids' Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All kids ages 5–10 invited make a Hanukkah craft. Also, a pizza dinner, make-your-own sundae, games, and a movie. *6:30–10:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $20 (JCC members, $16), $15 (JCC members, $14) for additional siblings. Reservations required. 971–0990.*

★**Open Role-Playing Gaming Night: The Underworld.** *Every Saturday.* All invited to play any of the role-playing games that the Underworld carries, but you must find your own opponents. *7 p.m.–midnight, The Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

Judaica Fine Art Sale: Temple Beth Emeth Sisterhood. Show and sale of paintings, prints, and sculptures in traditional, modern, fancy, and fun styles from Selo/Shevel gallery and Detroit's Tradition! Tradition! gallery. *7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth social hall, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 973–7221.*

★**"Finding the Sun": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** *November 29–December 1.* Raquelle Stiefler directs U-M students in Edward Albee's tale of 2 men who find themselves attracted to each other while they are vacationing with their wives. *7 p.m., Arena Stage (Frieze basement), 105 S. State. Free. 764–6800.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Ferris State. *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

"Holiday Extravaganza": Varsity Blues. *December 1 & 2.* This Saline High School student troupe departs somewhat from its past annual holiday show programs by including more contemporary holiday songs. Also, original skits and dances and favorite traditional holiday songs. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 2), Saline High School auditorium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets $5 at the door only. 429–0517.*

24th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. *November 30–December 2.* Jeweled with medieval splendor, this elegantly elaborate pageant allegorizes Christ's victory over sin and death and features a cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children. Originating in medieval England and celebrated for centuries at Cambridge and Oxford, the Boar's Head Festival is a rich spectacle that combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, with musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. It offers vividly dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. The peak of the festival is the presentation of a wild boar's head, a symbol of vanquished evil. A holiday dinner is served before tomorrow's performance. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year, so get your tickets early. *7:30 p.m. (Nov. 30 & Dec. 1) & 4 p.m. (Dec. 2), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $12 (ages 12 & under, $6; Dec. 2 dinner & performance, $35) in advance at the Kreft Center box office. 995–4612.*

John McCutcheon: The Ark. A big favorite with local audiences, McCutcheon is a hammered-dulcimer virtuoso whose repertoire features all forms of Appalachian music, from sacred harp songs and traditional ballads to buoyant hoedowns, contemporary songs, and originals, including a series of labor union songs for kids. Called by *Fret* magazine "the most versatile and energetic figure in the American traditional revival," McCutcheon also plays guitar, banjo, fiddle, and Autoharp, and he's a witty, charming performer. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Hits and Mis-Demeanors": Young Actor's Guild. *November 29–December 1.* Rob Hubbard directs local young actors in William Gleason's melo drama about the filming of a 1970s Charlie's Angels–type cop show. *7:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $6 (children, $4) in advance and at the door. 913–9750.*

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. *December 1 & 15.* Modern western square dancing to recorded music, with caller Glen Geer. Experienced dancers invited. Preceded by round dancing (7:30 p.m.). Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor Rd. at Fourth St., Dexter. $7 per couple. 433–0308.*

First Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Bob Stein calls to music by the Top Drawer String Band. Wear cool casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $8 (AACTMAD members, $7). 769–1052.*

Folk Dance Party: Ethnic Connection. Balkan, Israeli, and Scandinavian line dances (no partner or experience needed) to music by **Ethnic Connection,** a popular local quartet led by David Owens that plays klezmer and Balkan folk music, and by **Veseliba,** a local trio led by Bruce Sagan that plays Scandinavian and Bulgarian folk music. *8–11 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's Place V, 2625 Traver Rd. $6 (nondancers, $4). 662–5253.*

"Stay Tuned": Gimble (University Activities Center). This U-M a cappella group performs a mix of pop tunes, oldies, jazz, and religious and ethnic music. *8 p.m., 1324 East Hall, 525 E. University. Tickets $5 in advance, $6 at the door. 763–0558.*

Special Events: The Neutral Zone. *December 1, 8, & 15.* Music and arts events at this local teen center. Tonight: a **punk rock show** featuring high school and post-high school artists Half the Battle, Desktop Heroes, and Consolation Prize. Also this month: "How to Tie Your Shoes," a **dance show** by local

gay youth, followed at 9 p.m. by a dance party (December 8); and a **hip-hop show** featuring high school and post-high school artists Juice, Sun, and the Athletic Mic League, with local DJ Subterraneous and popular local funk-oriented jazz-rock band Funktelligence (December 15). *8 p.m.–midnight, The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main (the old Ark bldg.). $3. 214-9966.*

Dann Friedman & Geoffrey Esty: Canterbury House. Double bill. Saxophonist Friedman performs an eclectic mix of originals and covers, and Esty performs self-styled "acrobatic" jazz guitar. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Hunger Coalition. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $5 donation (students, $3). 764–3162.*

Billy Bang & Kahil El' Zabar and John Butcher & Gerry Hemingway: Kerrytown Concert House "Jazz at the Edge." Double bill. Veteran jazz violinist Bang and percussionist El' Zabar perform introspective improvisational jazz with African, Asian, and Middle Eastern elements from their new CD, *Spirits Entering*. Bang's splintery tone, elastic melodies, and sonic tweaks combine with El' Zabar's hand-held percussion instruments such as *kalimba, birimbau,* and hand drums to create music that is "structurally lucid, intellectually profound, but sonically accessible," according to the *Chicago Tribune*. Percussionist Hemingway, known for his intense, intellectual solo and ensemble music, joins London saxophonist Butcher for a set of inventive, layered improvisations. *8 & 10 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. *December 1 & 2.* The annual **University Choral Union** performance of Handel's beloved oratorio, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led the next winter to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. Thomas Sheets directs the chorus and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.** The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, include soprano **Linda Mabbs,** mezzo-soprano **Susan Platts,** tenor **Christopher Pfund,** and bass **Eric Owens.** *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $12–$20 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. *Every Wednesday–Sunday through December 22 (extended from November). See review, p. 99.* Anthony Caselli directs Fred Alley and James Kaplan's charming, offbeat musical comedy about ice fishing in Wisconsin that played to packed theaters throughout that state. Three ice fishermen joke and philosophize in a ramshackle shanty that one describes as "a cross between an outhouse and a Zen temple." One man dreams of the fish that will rocket him into TV fishing show fame. Another is in trouble for wanting to attend a Packers game on his wedding anniversary. A third is an obnoxious moocher. Songs in the folk-flavored score include a paean to the virtues of snowmobile suits. An organizer says, "Anyone who liked *Escanaba in da Moonlight* will love this show." *3 & 8 p.m. Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. $22.50 (Wed. & Thurs.), $27.50 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), and $32.50 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433–ROSE.*

"Buried Child": U-M Residential College Players. *November 30 & December 1.* Paul Kuttner and Margaret Conway direct fellow RC students in Sam Shepard's Pulitzer Prize–winning drama, a harrowing, often unsettlingly funny look at a dysfunctional Illinois farm family that looms as a symbol of America's loss of innocence. Upon returning with his new girlfriend to his grandparents' farmhouse after years of separation, a prodigal grandson is barely recognized by a bizarre group of relatives concealing corrosive family secrets. *8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. $5 (students, $3) at the door only. 763–0176.*

"R.U.R": U-M Residential College Players. *November 30–December 2.* Rebecca Fried directs fellow RC students in Karel Capek's anti-utopian 1921 melodrama about the dangers of technology. It's the story of a multinational corporation (Rossum's Universal Robots) that produces soulless artificial workers. But when the manufacturers add emotions to their creations, the robots rise in revolt against humankind. *8 p.m., U-M Media Union Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Tickets (price TBA) at the door only. 763–0176.*

"The Odd Couple": MorrisCo Art Theater. *November 29–December 2.* Susan Morris directs Neil Simon's hilarious comedy about 2 men—one a persnickety neatnik, the other a free-wheeling slob—who find themselves living together after their wives throw them out. In a mere 2 weeks, the tension be-

Ann Arbor Observer

success story

Successful advertising is one of the key ingredients in building a thriving business, but it's important to choose the right media. Neither Patricia nor I had any retail experience when we opened Country on the Avenue in March 2001—we were real novices about advertising. The Ann Arbor Observer has made our decision easy.

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Marshia Cordray (left)
Patricia Potter (right), Owners
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Ann Arbor Youth Chorale

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WINTER CONCERT

Saturday, December 8

7:30 PM

Chapel of the Holy Trinity at Concordia College
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EVENTS *continued*

tween fastidiousness and slovenliness builds to a perilous peak. Director Morris sets the play in its original 1960s period to re-create that era's relative innocence, adding, "Besides, there's no way a sportswriter could afford an eight-room apartment in Manhattan these days." Cast: Marty Smith, Larry Rusinsky, Paul Taylor, Richard Casto, Lenore Ferber, Cassie Mann, Tim Grimes, and Charlie Sutherland. *8 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 408 W. Washington. $15 (students & seniors, $12) in advance and at the door. 996–2549.*

"The Glass Menagerie": EMU Theater Department. *November 30 and December 1, 2, & 6–8.* EMU drama professor Terry Heck Siebert directs EMU drama students in Tennessee Williams's poetic psychological melodrama about a faded southern belle with illusions of a past greatness whose pretensions drive her 2 children to the edge of sanity. The story is set out as a reminiscence by her unhappy, rebellious son. Her physically handicapped daughter has retreated into a dream world supported by her collection of delicate glass animals. The family's fantasy lives are challenged when at the mother's insistence the brother invites a "gentleman caller" to dinner. *8 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets $6 (Thurs.), $11 (Fri. & Sat.), & $9 (Sun.) in advance up to 30 minutes before the show; $8 (Thurs.), $13 (Fri. & Sat.), & $11 (Sun.) at the door. Group discounts available. 487–1221.*

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. *November 29 & 30 and December 1, 2, 6–9, 13–16, & 20–23.* Tony Caselli directs Diana Son's touching, critically acclaimed 1999 comic drama about shifting sexual identity. When 2 women—a New York City radio traffic announcer and a schoolteacher—fall in love in spite of themselves, their first tentative kiss provokes an act of violence that turns their worlds upside down. Stars Carla Milarch and Michelle Murphy. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $25 (seniors, $22) on Fri. & Sat. and $20 (seniors, $17) on Thurs. & Sun. in advance by reservation and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

Janeane Garofalo: Clear Channel Entertainment. Stand-up comedy by this popular film and TV actress and comedian. Her monologues, an engaging mix of caustic observations and self-deprecating confessions, cover a wide range of topics from religion and politics to stardom and personal hygiene. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $26.50 & $35.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

Darwin Hines: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *November 29–December 1.* This African American comic from Detroit is known for his hysterically acerbic, refreshingly rough observational humor poking barbed fun at a wide range of stereotypes and complacencies. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 (Thurs.) & $8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Amelie" (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001). *December 1–6.* Charming tale of a Parisian waitress determined to improve the lives of those around her, including a despotic grocer, a kindly stripper, and a hypochondriacal tobacconist. Audrey Tautou. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"A Christmas Story"** (Bob Clark, 1983). *December 1 & 2.* Delightful memoir of a 1940s childhood. Melinda Dillon, Peter Billingsley. FREE. 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 3 p.m.

2 SUNDAY

★Falun Gong Instruction. *Every Sunday.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. *8:30–10:30 a.m., Gallup Park boathouse (west of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 332–0680.*

★Shorinji Kempo. *Every Sunday.* This Japanese self-defense system combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. *9–11 a.m., Arts in Motion Dance Studio, 2839 Boardwalk. Free to first-time visitors ($25 monthly dues). 332–1780.*

★"The Big Fen Hike": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Matt Heumann leads a hike to what might be called a megafen. Fifth of 6 commemorative hikes (see 9 Sunday) leading up to Heumann's late-December retirement. Wear waterproof boots. *10 a.m., Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd., Chelsea (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971–6337.*

★Peace Vigil & Prayer Meeting: Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. *Every Sunday.* All invited to join a program of meditation, chanting, contemplation, and discussion of the power of love and peace. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free; donations accepted.*

★"Fairhope, Alabama": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Fellowship member Doris Preston talks about this southern town where she grew up, which was founded at the turn of the 20th century by a single-tax colony. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. *Every Sunday.* This seasonal arts market features a wide variety of local artisans' fine arts and crafts. Also, special events. Today: **craft demonstrations.** Also this month: a drawing for a Christmas tree decorated with handmade ornaments (December 9), a SAFE House donation drive (December 16), and "Psychic Sunday" (December 23). *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Farmers Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. 994–FARM.*

Hanukkah Bazaar: Beth Israel Congregation. Traditional and unusual Judaica, menorahs, candles, dreidels, wrapping paper, cards, jewelry, toys, and local artisans' handicrafts. Also, a children's corner with Hanukkah crafts and gifts priced for small people's budgets. Lunch, featuring scrumptious latkes (potato pancakes) made from scratch and hot dogs (11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.). *10 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation social hall, 2000 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 665–9897.*

★"The Gospel of John": Knox Single Adult Ministries. *Every Sunday.* All single adults age 25 and older invited to join a Bible study. *10:45 a.m., Knox Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 2065 S. Wagner at Scio Church Rd. Free. 971–1793.*

★"How to Survive Spiritually in Our Times": Eckankar of Ann Arbor. All invited to discuss soul travel, dream interpretation, and past lives as means for understanding your current life. *11 a.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts Bldg., 4800 Huron River Dr., room 375. Free. 994–0766.*

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. *Every Sunday.* A weekly program open to all single adults age 50 and older interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. This week: First Presbyterian associate pastor Annemarie Kidder discusses **"Singles Spirituality."** Also this month: a slide-illustrated talk by U-M film professor Frank Beaver on **"Today's Movies and How They Got That Way"** (December 9), local attorney Elizabeth Woodruff discusses her **"Pro Bono Legal Work"** (December 16), First Presbyterian Singles Ministries coordinator Susan White lock leads a discussion of **"Joy"** (December 23), and **informal fellowship** (December 30). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★18th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Saturday. Also today: a **Christmas concert** (3–4 p.m.) features vocal music by soloists, trios, and a women's choir and instrumental music with trombone, flute, organ, and a handbell choir. 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

★Newcomers Day: Karma Thegsum Choling. KTC staff members introduce Buddhist thought and demonstrate basic meditation practices. Refreshments. *11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495.*

Orienteering Meet: Southeastern Michigan Orienteering Club. All invited to try this at-your-own-pace sport of reading maps and compasses to follow an outdoor course. Maps, some compasses available. No experience necessary. *Noon–3 p.m., Bird Hills Park (meet at Bird Hills Park entrance on Bird Rd. west of Huron River Dr.). $5 (members, $4; beginners, $3). (519) 256–0324.*

Silent Meditation: Essence Point. *Every Sunday.* An unguided 45-minute silent meditation period. All welcome. *Noon–1 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Donations appreciated. 741–0478.*

★First Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting: Tios Mexican Cafe. Tios manager Tim Seaver offers samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt. *Noon–4 p.m., Tios Mexican Cafe, 2224 Washtenaw at Hewitt, Ypsilanti. Free. 528–4444.*

"Victorian Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. See 1 Saturday. Noon–5 p.m.

★Ann Arbor Film Fans. *December 6, 13, & 20*

All invited to join other film lovers for an informal discussion of favorite films. *Afternoon time & location TBA. Free. 623–2096.*

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 55 and older invited to play bridge. *1–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Sandpaper Prints": Ann Arbor Art Center "First Sundays @ 1."** Kids and their parents invited to use wax, sandpaper, and an iron to create a beautiful holiday card in this popular annual session. *1–4 p.m., AAAC, 117 W. Liberty. Free. 994–8004.*

★**Robbyn Smith van Frankenhuyzen and Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen: Liberty Borders.** This husband-and-wife team of children's book writer Robbyn and illustrator Gijsbert read from ***Adopted by an Owl,*** their heartwarming story of a great horned owl that is released after being rehabilitated from an injury. Also, signing. *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

8th Annual Benefit: Avalon Housing. Latin-flavored jazz by the **Bruce Dondero Quintet,** an ensemble of veteran local favorites led by bassist Dondero. With saxophonist and flutist Paul Vornhagen, pianist Tad Weed, drummer Pete Siers, and conga player Norm Shobey. Proceeds to benefit Avalon, a 9-year-old local nonprofit agency that currently owns and manages over 141 units of affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in 18 sites scattered around town. Also, ceremonies recognizing support for Avalon's work by retiring city councilwoman Tobi Hanna-Davies, city police officer Douglas Martelle, and Children's Creative Center director Laurie Atwood. Hors d'oeuvres. *1–4 p.m., The Earle, 121 W. Washington. Tickets $40 ($70 for 2) in advance and at the door. 663–5858.*

"Discover Qigong." Local qigong practitioner Robert Hughes discusses and demonstrates this Chinese technique for improving body functions. *1:30–3 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). $10. 827–1443.*

★**"Holding Their Feet to the Fire: Extracting Information from Relatives": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by club president Marcia McCrary. *1:30 p.m., McAuley Health Center Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

★**Ann Arbor Ultimate.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to a pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *2 p.m., Palmer Field. Free. 662–3332.*

Conservatory Tours: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. *Every Sunday.* Docents lead a conservatory tour. Also, today only at 1 p.m., a docent-led outdoor trail tour ($1). *2 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $4 (kids 6–18, $2; kids 5 & under, free). 998–7061.*

★**"Japanese Fishermen's Coats of Awaji Island": U-M Museum of Art.** *December 2 & 23.* Docent-led tour of this exhibit. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–UMMA.*

★**"Merry Mice Meet Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Workbench Furniture, Kerrytown. Free. 769–3115.*

★**"Gurdjieff/Ouspensky: A Fourth Way School": Highercosmos.** *Every Sunday & Wednesday.* All invited to learn about this practical system for the development of consciousness based on the work of G. I. Gurdjieff, the turn-of-the-century Turkish-Armenian mystic and philosopher whose blend of Eastern and Western traditions profoundly influenced 20th-century Western notions of holistic consciousness, and his disciple, the Russian mathematician and mystic P. D. Ouspensky. *2 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Wed.), location TBA. Free. (734) 697–2477.*

★**Guild Day: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to meet local neopagans and sit in on meetings of their Magicians (2–3 p.m.), Healers (3–4 p.m.), and Warriors (4–5 p.m.) guilds. The Magicians meeting theme is *Runic Meditations.* Followed by discussion. *2–5 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 697–2514.*

★**"Scientists among Us": Arts Group Saline.** Washtenaw Community College geography instructor Dave Thomas discusses **mammoth fossils** and his campaign to make them the official state fossil. Refreshments. *2–4 p.m., Saline District Library, 555 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Free. 429–5450.*

Vocal Arts Ensemble. Ben Cohen leads this local ensemble in a concert of a cappella choral music that celebrates the joys and consolations of faith. Program: Heinrich Schuetz's *Psalm 116,* Randall Thompson's *Alleluia,* and works by Byrd, Brahms, Parsons, and Walton. *2 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, N. Division at Catherine. $10 (seniors & students, $5; kids 12 & under, free) at the door only. 971–9774.*

Alternative Holiday Fair: First Baptist Church/Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts, jewelry, and holiday decorations from Third World countries. Also, a chance to participate in the highly acclaimed Heifer International project by helping to pay for farm animals (some on hand and available for petting) for needy overseas farm families. Also, calendars, cards, T-shirts, a book table, strings of Japanese peace cranes, and other items to benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. *2–6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663–1870.*

Gender-Free Contra Dance Holiday Ball: Ann Arbor Rainbow Contra Dancers. Traditional American folk dancing and English country dancing for people of all orientations. There are two distinct roles in contra dancing, one traditionally male and one female. In gender-free contra dancing, dancers take whichever position they like and with any partner they like. John Legge calls to live music by pianist David West and fiddler Donna Baird. No partner necessary. All dances taught; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $7 (AACTMAD members & students, $5). 975–0673.*

★**"Brass Blast II": EMU Music Department.** Performances by EMU horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and tuba students. *2 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"R.U.R": U-M Residential College Players. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Odd Couple": MorrisCo Art Theater. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Glass Menagerie": EMU Theater Department. See 1 Saturday. 2:30 p.m.

Vegetarian Information Network & Exchange. Speaker and topic TBA. Preceded by a vegan (no dairy, egg, or honey) potluck. Bring a dish to pass (with recipe), serving utensil, plates, cutlery, and cup. *2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. $1 (members, free). 428–3426.*

Michigan Marching Band: U-M School of Music. Jamie Nix leads the band in a family concert—without the halftime show formations—of traditional U-M and seasonal songs. *2:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets $8 (children 11 and under, $3) in advance at Revelli Hall (350 E. Hoover), M-Den locations, or at the door. 764–0583.*

★**Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers.** *Every Sunday & occasional Mondays.* The local chapter of an unorthodox running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's task is to follow a trail designed to be confusing. The usual result is that the lead (i.e., fastest) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and pop hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant. *3 p.m. (Sun.) & 6:30 p.m. (Mon.), location TBA. Free. For location and information, visit the group's website (www-personal.umich.edu/~ronmoore/a2h3) or call 332–9314.*

★**Astrology Study Group of Washtenaw County.** All invited to chat about astrology, pore over natal charts, and possibly hear a report or two about newly published astrology books. *3–5 p.m., location TBA. Free. 434–4555.*

14th Annual Festival of Lights: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. See 1 Saturday. The final day of the festival begins with a concert by the **Congdon Quartet,** which performs a Bartok duo, Beethoven trio, and Dvorak quintet. The music is interspersed with brief comments on the pieces, composers, and historical context. Followed by a chance to meet and mingle with the musicians and other audience members. Refreshments. The festival concludes at 7 p.m. with a free **Holiday Festival of Carols** at the Chelsea Retirement Community, 809 W. Middle. *3 p.m., First Congregational Church, 121 E. Middle, Chelsea. Tickets $12.50 (seniors, $10; ages 17 & under, $5) available 2 weeks in advance at Zou Zou's (101 N. Main) and by phone, and at the door. 433–1622.*

"A Kaleidoscope of Dance: 33rd Annual Holiday Dance": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

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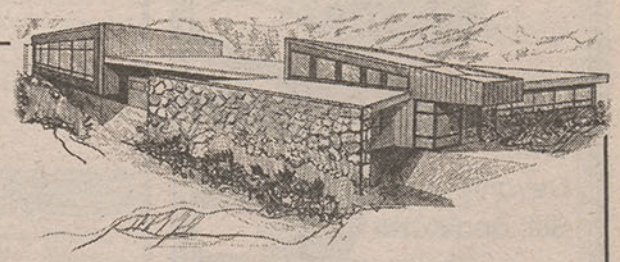

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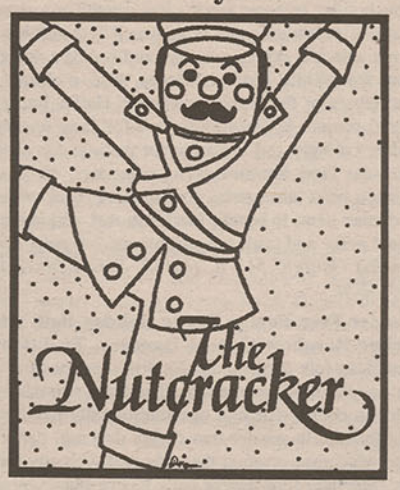

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Leo Najar, Conductor

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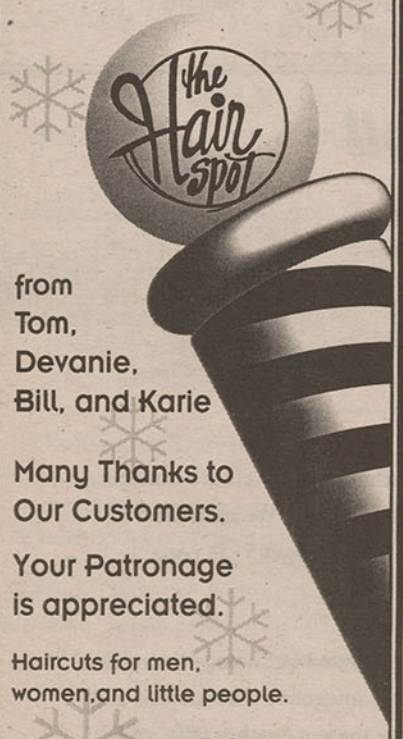
Season Greetings



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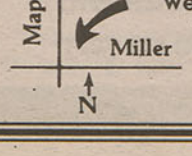

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri. 8:30–5:30
Thurs. 8:30–7:00
Sat. 8:30–3:00
No appointment necessary.

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Chase, 6th grade

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734 747-6641

The Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, or ethnic origin.

EVENTS *continued*

★**"Sunday Funday": Generations.** Music for Little Folks owner Gari Stein leads kids under 6 in a percussion concert and dancing. Refreshments. *3:30–4:30 p.m., Generations, 337 S. Main. Free. 662–6615.*

★**"Pottery of the San Ildefonso": Yourist Pottery** Screening of a video about Pueblo potter Maria Martinez, world famous for her breathtaking glossy silvery-black pottery richly decorated with traditional Pueblo motifs in matte black. *4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

★**Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** U-M percussion professor Michael Udow conducts this music-student ensemble in works by Udow, Minoru Miki, and Keiko Abe. Featured marimba soloists are Tomoko Azuma, David Endahl, and Ilson Markzon. *4 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0583.*

Transformational Theater. *December 2 & 16.* All invited to join this theater group that encourages self-exploration with theater games, improv, sound, movement, storytelling, mask making, and other activities led by group members. *4:30–7 p.m., location TBA. Small donation for room rental. 302–7179, 827–1443.*

Waleed Howrani. This internationally acclaimed local pianist performs a varied program that includes original compositions, the late U-M music professor William Albright's *Machine Age*, Schulz-Evler's virtuoso arrangement of Strauss's *Blue Danube* Waltz, and works by Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Also, 7 Gershwin songs. *Der Tagesspiegel* (Berlin) calls Howrani a "faultless virtuoso who can display a sensitive singing sonority," and the *Washington Post* praises his "lucid interpretive powers . . . buoyed by a poetic sensitivity that is at once refined and free-spirited." Reception follows. *4:30 p.m., Huron Hills Baptist Church, 3150 Glazier Way (between Huron Pkwy. and Green Rd.). $15 at the door only. 663–3221.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris & Sword Dancers.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this English ceremonial dance dating back to medieval times. Wear soft-soled shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House Learning Center, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. Free. For information, call Jill Baker at 623–8374.*

"613 Miles Off Broadway": Michigan Pops Orchestra. This 75-member ensemble, the U-M's only student-run orchestra, performs a concert of show-stopping Broadway hits that includes songs from *Rent, Evita, Les Miserables,* and other Broadway hits. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10 (students, $5) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. 763–1107.*

★**Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heirloom sewing. All invited. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–7867.*

Israeli Dancing: U-M Hillel. *December 2 & 9.* Tom Starks offers 30 minutes of instruction for beginners, followed by open dancing. *7:30–9:30 p.m., 1429 Hill St. $3. 973–6324.*

★**EMU Women's Chorus: EMU Music Department.** Ernest Brandon directs this EMU music-student choir in a program of seasonal music. *8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

FILMS

EMU Campus Life. "And the Band Played On" (Roger Spottiswoode, 1993). *Today only.* Adaptation of Randy Shilts's best-selling novel about the early years of the AIDS epidemic. Alan Alda, Richard Gere, Lily Tomlin, Steve Martin, Anjelica Huston. FREE. 487–3045. EMU Roosevelt Auditorium. 5 p.m. **MTF. "Amelie"** (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. **"A Christmas Story"** (Bob Clark, 1983). See 1 Saturday. Mich., 3 p.m.

3 MONDAY

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 and older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch ($1) and socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** *Every Monday.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. Leslie Austin directs. *10–11:45 a.m., West Side Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at*

new music

The master of musical seduction

Christian Matjias plays the music of Phillip Carout

If I ever fall in love again, I'll give the lady a white rose, a pearl necklace, and a copy of Chopin's nocturnes played by Ivan Moravec. But if I ever want to practice the art of seduction again, I'll give her a red rose, open a bottle of Perrier-Jouët, and pull out a copy of Phillip Carout's *Suites for Dance* played by Christian Matjias. Because while Chopin's nocturnes sing of the deep joys and profound sorrows of true love, Carout's *Suites for Dance* sing of—how shall we say this—the more lubricious joys and more voluptuous sorrows of old love, new love, any love but true love.

Actually, there is no Phillip Carout, or, rather, Phillip Carout is really Christian Matjias, a piano-playing U-M dance professor. Why did Matjias invent the Carout identity to hide behind? Perhaps because the music he was writing just didn't fit his elevated position at the university. After all, how would it look for a professor to write seduction music? But as he's grown more comfortable with his dual personalities, he's fused them into two aspects of a single musical identity. Still, I bet that Phillip gets more dates. And when he sits down and plunks out a few of the tunes from either this disc or its predecessor, *Standing Alone*, the outcome of the evening is never in doubt, with or without the Perrier-Jouët.

As Carout, Matjias writes ideal seduction music. The tempos are caressingly *lento lugubre*, the melodies have plenty of yearning sixths and sensual sevenths, the harmonies have lots of numinous ninths and luminous elevenths, and the textures sweep across the entire keyboard, lingering on the implications of this sharp, exploring the intricacies of that flat. But, most important, the tone of Carout's music is passionately melancholic. It has the sorrowful sonority of a man who has loved and lost but still keeps hopeless hope close to his heart that she is out there and all she has to do is hear his music and then . . . you get the idea.

To experience this music up close and personal, you can catch Matjias at the Firefly Club on Monday, December 3, or at Kerrytown Concert House on Tuesday, December 4. Backed by cellist Crispin Campbell and electronic treatments creator Chris Peck, he'll play the music from *Suites for Dance* plus a little number by Arvo Pärt called "Für Alina," a bunch of tangos by Astor Piazzolla, and an especially rapturous ballad by Josef Zawinul called "In a Silent Way" (from Miles Davis's album of the same name). Take someone you want to seduce. Meet this person with a red rose. Order some champagne. And then . . .

—Lucien Chardon

Davis. Free to first-time visitors ($40 per semester membership dues). 677–0678, 663–5907.

★**18th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 1 Saturday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Monday.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($3), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At noon, a homemade luncheon buffet ($4, $3 with reservations). The weekly program also includes meetings of the **Writing Group** (1 p.m.). All invited. *11 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

Weekly Luncheon Series: U-M Club of Ann Arbor. *December 3, 10, & 17.* A weekly lunchtime talk by U-M men's basketball coach **Tommy Amaker,** along with other speakers. Today's second speaker: men's and women's diving coach **Dick Kimball.** Also this month: women's gymnastics coach **Bev Plocki** (December 10) and men's tennis coach **Mark Mees** (December 17). *11:15 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Lunch cost: $7.75 (seniors, $7.25). For more information, call Ben Fairman at 668–6702.*

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** *Every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday.* All invited to pick one of 40 songs, with melodies written in numbers, and play it on the 17-bell bell tower's numbered keys. Local chimemasters Norm Roller (Mondays) and Heather O'Neal (Wednesdays and Fridays) demonstrate. *Noon, Kerrytown. Free. 662–5008.*

★**"Global Duties: Cicero's Problematic Legacy": U-M Institute for the Humanities Marc & Constance Jacobson Lecture.** University of Chicago law and ethics professor Martha Nussbaum discusses the ethics that should inform any political response to imbalances of wealth and well-being within and between nations. Also, tomorrow Nussbaum and several U-M faculty present a panel discussion on issues raised by her talk (4 p.m., Michigan Union Wolverine Room). *4 p.m., Michigan Union Anderson Room. Free. 936–3518.*

★**Feldenkrais Method.** *December 3, 10, & 17.* Local Feldenkrais practitioner Katherine Rogers introduces this movement reeducation method that makes people aware of how they can move more easily. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave. Free to first-time visitors. 971–5285.*

★**"Oral History with Nancy Nelson": U-M Nursing History Society.** This former U-M nurse discusses her career. Preceded by a 5:30 p.m. potluck (bring a dish to pass and place setting). *6:30 p.m., 1334 U-M School of Nursing, 400 N. Ingalls. Free. 434–0266.*

★**Huron Valley Toastmasters.** *Every Monday except December 24 & 31.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the cafeteria. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday and Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: $48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 663–1836.*

"Messages for the Millennium": Crystal Clear Expressions. Nanci Rose Gerler channels spiritual messages from various masters, guides, and angels. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore meeting room, 114 S. Main. $12. Reservations requested. 996–8799.*

Washtenaw Chess Club. *Every Monday & Wednesday except December 24 & 31.* All invited to play chess with their peers. Chess sets and clocks provided. *7–11 p.m., Chess Express, 220 S. Main (below Elmo's Supershirts). $3 (first-time visitors, free). 665–0612.*

★**Common Thread.** *December 3 & 16.* All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7–9 p.m., Clonlara School, 1289 Jewett (between Packard & South Industrial). Free to first-time visitors ($30 annual dues). 769–1616.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus.** *Every Monday except December 24 & 31.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, and friends. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. 973–6084.*

★**"Aut" Social Group for Professional Lesbian Singles and Friends.** All professional lesbian singles invited for an evening of socializing. *7:30 p.m., \aut\ Bar, 315 Braun Ct. Free (pay for your own snack). 747–7322.*

★**Sarah Messer: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This University of North Carolina-Wilmington creative writing teacher, a U-M poetry and creative writing grad, reads from ***Bandit Letters,*** her new collection of deft, funny, passionate, and unsettling poems chronicling outlaw explorations of the borderlands of experience and identity and set in a time-traveling landscape that intermixes colonial New England, the Wild West, and contemporary pop culture. Signing, refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** John Dorsey and Mike Hall direct these two music-student ensembles in a program of upbeat jazz standards and contemporary works. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Student Composition Forum: U-M School of Music.** U-M music students TBA perform a variety of student compositions. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0583.*

★**Jazz Combos: U-M School of Music.** *December 3 & 4.* Roland Vazquez leads these music-student ensembles in works by Cole Porter, Wayne Shorter, and Fletcher Henderson, as well as student compositions. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0583.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Monday except December 24 & 31.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation African American Film Series. "Gridlocked" (Vondie Curtis-Hall, 1997). *Today only.* Comedy about two friends whose efforts to kick their drug habits are hampered by harassment from drug dealers and the police. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 6 p.m. **"Eyes Wide Shut"** (Stanley Kubrick, 1999). *Today only.* When the threat of infidelity poisons a doctor's marriage, he drifts into a dangerous sexual underground. Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Sydney Pollack. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. **"Amelie"** (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA.

4 TUESDAY

★**Drop-In Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *December 4 & 11.* Storytelling programs for kids ages 3 & older. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. *9:30–10 a.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tuesday.* All seniors invited to play **mahjongg** (noon–2 p.m.) and/or join the **ABC Quilters** (1–3 p.m.) to make quilts for HIV-infected babies. Also, Lisbeth Fried offers an **"Introduction to the Bible in Its World"** (10:30–11:30 a.m.). *Noon–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"Returning to One: Spirits, Ancestors, and the Emergence of Cosmological Thinking in Early China": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Brown Bag Lecture.** Lecture by Harvard University early Chinese history professor John Loeb. Bring lunch; cookies and coffee served. *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Holiday Potluck Luncheon: Newcomers Club of Ann Arbor.** Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to pass. All women who have recently moved or returned to the Ann Arbor–Ypsilanti area invited.

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EVENTS *continued*

12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 944–4674.

★**"Dr. Chase and His Famous 19th-Century Recipe Book": U-M Detroit Observatory Lecture Series.** Clements Library docent and local culinary historian Jan Longone discusses *Dr. Chase's Recipes; or, Information for Everybody,* Ann Arbor peddler-turned-physician A. W. Chase's internationally best-selling 19th-century miscellany that includes everything from recipes for toad ointment and yeastless corn beer to suggestions for detecting counterfeit money and combating "general female debility." *3 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory meeting room, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free. 763–2230.*

★**Family Drop-In Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Tuesday & Thursday through December 11.* Storytelling programs for all ages. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. *4–4:30 p.m. (Tues.) & 7–7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), AADL Youth Department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Between Utopia and Messianism: Agnon's 'Only Yesterday' Revisited": U-M Center for Judaic Studies.** Talk by visiting Judaic studies professor Sidra Ezrahi. *4 p.m., 3050 Frieze Bldg., 105 S. State. Free. 763–9047.*

★**Settlers of Catan: The Underworld.** Underworld staff members demonstrate how to play this popular tactical miniatures board game. *6 p.m., Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**Society for Women Engineers Book Club: Liberty Borders.** All invited to join a discussion of *Crows over a Wheatfield,* Paula Sharp's novel about a brilliant but abusive trial lawyer's daughter who becomes a vigilante champion for abused women. *6–8 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Native American Culture Discussion Group: Native Ways.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to join this discussion group, roughly half of whose participants are Native American. Topics, chosen by participants, range from traditional skills to current events involving First Nations people. *6:30–8 p.m., Native Ways Gallery, 209 N. Main. Free. 662–2099.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. IUPU-Fort Wayne. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $20. 764–0247.*

★**"A Gathering of Peace": The Free Daist Communion.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* Prayer vigil for peace featuring the teachings of Adi Da, Western-born guru Heart Master (formerly known as Da Free John). All invited. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 741–0432.*

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All women invited to participate in the weekly rehearsals of this local 30-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($18 monthly dues for those who join). 995–4110.*

★**"Privacy and Security in the Light of Recent Events": U-M Law School/College of LS&A/School of Public Policy.** Lecture by Peter Swire, former chief counselor for privacy in the Clinton administration. *7 p.m., 100 Hutchins Hall, 625 S. State. Free. 615–3385.*

★**"Information about Cohousing."** *December 4 & 13.* All invited to learn more about a new cohousing community now forming. *Cohousing* is a term for an ecologically conscious, collectively owned, resident-planned housing development, such as the Sunward Cohousing complex off Jackson Road. *7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 663–5853.*

"Cinema Slam": Michigan Theater Foundation. A lively, entertaining 2-hour smorgasbord of films made by Ann Arborites, from VHS home movies to 35 mm films by independent filmmakers. All invited to submit a film. Followed by an informal coffee chat with the filmmakers, at Espresso Royale on State Street. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. $4. 668–8480.*

"Fit and Finished": Women Business Owners of Southeastern Michigan. Local image consultant Paula Rand discusses how to maximize and accessorize your wardrobe. Preceded at 6:40 p.m. by networking. Refreshments. *7:10 p.m., 777 Eisenhower. $10 (members, free). Preregistration requested. 332–9300.*

Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. *Every Tuesday except December 25.* Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 25th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. *7:30 p.m., U-M Track Bldg., Hoover at S. State. U-M pass ($5 per day) required. 668–7931, 663–9740.*

"Planetary Healing Circle." *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All invited to join for silent meditation on world peace, healing, and joy. *7:30–8:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard, room 11. $1 suggested donation. 971–8576.*

Community Education Series: Dawn Farm. *December 4 & 11.* Local professionals discuss substance abuse and related issues. Tonight: a panel discussion by Dawn Farm residents and staff members on **"Treatment and Recovery."** Also this month: social workers Jason Schwartz and David Garvin discuss **"Domestic Violence and Addiction"** (December 11). *7:30 p.m., Dawn Farm, 6333 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free; donations accepted. Preregistration required. 485–8725.*

★**"Teens Using Drugs: How to Know and What to Do": Dawn Farm.** *December 4 & 11.* 2-part talk by local social worker Ron Harrison. Refreshments, literature. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.), classroom EC4. Free. 973–7892.*

★**"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* Talk by **Rimpoche Nawang Gehlek,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Gehlek's longtime student Aura Glaser (former owner of Crazy Wisdom Bookstore) or a visiting speaker. *Note:* Gehlek reads from his new book *A Shaman Drum* on November 15 (see listing). *7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations are accepted. 994–3387.*

★**"Ritual Use of Herbs": People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. *7:30–9:30 p.m., PFC, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**"Snorkeling Michigan Inland Lakes": U-M Science Research Club.** Talk by videographer Nancy Washburne, who also shows a 27-minute video of aquatic life in Michigan lakes. Refreshments. *7:30–10 p.m., G-390 Dental Bldg., 1011 North University. (Entrance is from level 3 of the Fletcher St. parking structure.) Free. 761–4320, 763–5678.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Members show their recent slides and prints. *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset, room 310. Free ($10 annual dues for those who join). 663–3763, 665–6597.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *7:30 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington. Free admission. 665–2931.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *La fiesta del chivo (The Feast of the Good),* Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa's epic historical novel about the former Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All male singers invited to attend the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($73 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call John Paglione at 971–2720.*

★**Ypsilanti Community Band.** *Every Tuesday except December 25.* All musicians invited to join this 50-member post-high-school adult band (no auditions necessary) directed by Jerry Robbins. The band plays a variety of music, including show tunes, marches, and classics, at several concerts annually. Music and stands provided. *7:30–9:30 p.m., 105 EMU Alexander Bldg., Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 485–4048, 769–2425.*

★**Grace Paley: U-M English Department Visiting Writers Series.** Fiction reading by this New York City poet, feminist, and antiwar activist known for her straightforward yet luminous stories of everyday life. Susan Sontag called her "a natural with a voice like no one else's—funny, sad, lean, modest, energetic, acute." Also, Paley gives a talk on "In and Out of Literature" on December 6 at 5 p.m. in the business school's Hale Auditorium, 701 Tappan. *7:30 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. Free. 647–6471*

Swing Dance Jam. *December 4 & 18.* Swing dancing, including the jitterbug, the lindy hop, and other styles, to recorded music at an informal dance on a wooden dance floor. No formal instruction, but experienced dancers are usually willing to share different moves. Beginners welcome; no partner necessary. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). $2. 973–2654.*

"Advent Benefit Concert": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music school professor emeritus Willis Patterson directs an ecumeni-

cal choir of local church members in a concert highlighted by Christmas spirituals. Guest artist is bass-baritone **Darnell Ishmel,** a U-M voice grad student who directs the Washtenaw County Youth Chorale. Proceeds benefit an educational fund for Ishmel. *7:30 p.m., Bethel AME, 900 John Woods Dr. $15 & $25 donation. 994–5734.*

Trio Miro/Duo: Kerrytown Concert House. This local trio performs selections from its new CD, *Suites for Dance: Music for Cello and Piano,* a collection of ethereal ambient compositions by Phillip Carout, the alter ego of the group's leader, U-M dance department pianist **Christian Matjias** *(see review, p. 83).* Also, Astor Piazzolla's "Soledad," "Le Grand Tango," and "Libertango." Other members are cellist Crispin Campbell and electronic musician Chris Peck. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15 (students & seniors, $7.50). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. *Every Tuesday except December 25.* Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroit-area bands. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a dance class ($4). Dress code observed. *8–11 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $5 (members, $4). 971–2015, (517) 423–0677.*

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Featured reader TBA. Also, open mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a $10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. *8–11 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg Restaurant), 215 N. Main. $4. For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

★**EMU Collegium Concert: EMU Music Department.** Anthony Iannaccone directs EMU music faculty and students in a program of 17th- and 18th-century choral and instrumental music. *8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Michigan Chamber Winds: U-M School of Music.** This music student ensemble performs octets by Beethoven, Mozart, and Gordon Jacob. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0583.*

★**University Choir and Arts Chorale: U-M School of Music.** Sandra Snow and Alissa Mercurio lead these music-student choirs in works by Handel, Bruckner, Mozart, Verdi, Copland, and Celso Aguiar. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0583.*

"Winter's Grace": The Ark. *See review, p. 91.* An evening of songs celebrating the beauty, joys, and hardships of the winter solstice season by an ensemble led by bluegrass star **Laurie Lewis,** a great fiddler and a riveting, passionate vocalist with a pure, silvery voice, and featuring her longtime musical partner, mandolinist Tom Rozum. The band's repertoire, showcased on its CD *Winter's Grace,* ranges from unusual traditional carols like "Wassail Song" and "Heiligste Nacht" to Merle Haggard's "If We Make It Through December" and Tex Logan's "Christmas Time's a-Comin'." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *December 4, 11, & 18.* Historical and traditional English dances, with music by Donna Baird and David West and a caller TBA. Partners, previous experience not necessary. Comfortable nonslip walking shoes recommended. Preceded by beginning (7 p.m.) and intermediate (8 p.m.) lessons. *8:45–9:45 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $6. 422–1170.*

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. *Every Tuesday except December 25.* Short sets by a variety of area and regional stand-up comics. If you'd like to perform, call emcee Timmy P at 369–2381 at least 5 days in advance. *9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., Club Above (3rd floor of the Heidelberg), 215 N. Main. $5 at the door only. 663–5578.*

FILMS

MTF. Cinema Slam (various Ann Arborites, various years). See Events listing, above. **"Amelie"** (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA.

5 WEDNESDAY

"Rockin' For the Hungry": Food Gatherers/Busch's Valu Land. *December 5–9.* Live broadcasts by Kool 107 DJs. Also, giveaways. Hot dogs available. Nonperishable food donations requested for Food Gatherers, a local organization that collects excess fresh food from restaurants and markets to distribute to local shelters and other organizations with food programs. *6 a.m.–8 p.m. (Wed.–Sat.) & 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sun.), Busch's Valu Land, 2240 S. Main. Free (donations of canned goods or cash welcome). 761–2796.*

★**Wednesday Winter Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Wednesday.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *11 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994–5908 & 663–4498 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Children's Storytime: Arborland Borders.** *Every Wednesday.* Borders staffers read a selection of kids books. *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–5549.*

★**"ArtVideos": U-M Museum of Art.** *Every Wednesday.* Screenings of videos that examine 20th-century art. Today: ***The Age of Anxiety*** explores American art of the last 25 years. Also this month: ***Andy Warhol*** profiles the driving force behind the Pop Art movement (December 12), and ***Drawing the Line: A Portrait of Keith Haring*** portrays this former graffiti artist. *12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**"Music at Midday": U-M Pierpont Commons.** *December 5 & 12.* A variety of music, dance, and performance art, in 2 performance areas, by U-M students and faculty TBA. *12:30–1 p.m., Leonardo's (lower level) & Piano Lounge (main floor), Pierpont Commons, 2101 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 647–6838.*

★**Jane Erway: The Underworld.** This local comic artist signs copies of the first issue of ***Vogelin,*** her series of comics about a fairy. *1–3 & 7–9 p.m., Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**"Planetary Healing Circle."** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to join for silent meditation on world peace, healing, and joy. *3–4 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore meeting room, 114 S. Main. Free. 971–8576.*

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. *Every Wednesday.* A variety of activities for kids. *4–5:45 p.m., Buhr Park outdoor ice rink, 2751 Packard Rd. $2.75. 971–3228.*

★**"Ethics in Medical Research Involving Human Subjects": U-M Medical School Psychiatry Department.** Talk by Princeton economics professor and National Bioethics Advisory Commission chairman **Harold Shapiro,** the former U-M and Princeton president who also participates in the U-M Wiesner Symposium on November 7 (see listing). *4 p.m., Mott Hospital MCHC Auditorium, 1505 Simpson (off E. Medical Center Dr.). Free. 764–2220.*

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** *December 5 & 6.* Two different programs both days. At 5 p.m. today and 7 p.m. tomorrow, 4 women opera students perform songs by women composers in Spanish, Czech, Italian, German, and English. At 7 p.m. today and 5 p.m. tomorrow, opera students perform staged excerpts from Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito,* Handel's *Ariodante,* and Britten's *Peter Grimes. 5 & 7 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Wine Tasting: Paesano's Restaurant. *Every Wednesday.* A chance to sample 6 different Italian wines each week, in an informal and friendly setting, with a selection of hot antipasti. *6–7 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. $15. Space limited; reservations recommended. 971–0484.*

Wine Tasting: Bird of Paradise. *Every Wednesday.* A chance to taste and sample 4 different wines each week. The weekly flight of wines is built around a particular region (usually French), wine maker, or variety of grape. *6–9 p.m., Bird of Paradise, 312 S. Main. $4.50. 662–8310.*

★**Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–7:45 p.m., 102 Krieger Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: $24 semiannually. 995–7351.*

★**"Moving Beyond the Basics": Ann Arbor District Library.** Introduction to the finer details of using a web browser, including using bookmarks, saving to disk, and evaluating websites. *7 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8323.*

★**Transcendental Meditation Introductory Session: Maharishi Vedic School.** *Every Wednesday.* Ann Arbor TM director Carol Lubetkin introduces this simple, natural meditation technique for creativity, happiness, and fulfillment. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 996–8686.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wednesday.* Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or

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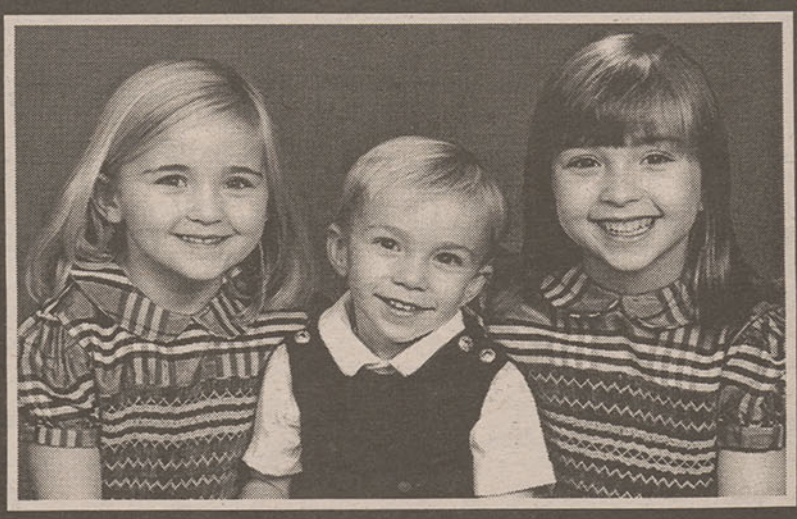

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so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

★**"Controlling Robots with a Basic Stamp II Computer Processor": Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** Talk by club member Jay Nuge. Also, visitors can check out a robot built by the Huron High School robotics club. *7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Jackson Rd., behind KFC). Free. 332–1000.*

★**"La Casa de Bernarda Alba" Auditions: Washtenaw Community College Performing Arts/ Michigan Classical Repertory Theater.** All invited to try out for a part in a February 28–March 2 production of Lorca's tragedy. *7–10 p.m., WCC Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium. Free. 677–5095.*

Undergraduate English Association Benefit: Shaman Drum Bookshop. Poetry and prose readings by various U-M undergrads. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Donation. 662–7407.*

★**Poetry Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tea Room.** *Every Wednesday.* Open mike poetry readings, except when there is a featured reader (see 12 Wednesday listing). Sign up begins at 6:30 p.m. *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–9468.*

★**Peace Corps Information Session.** Peace Corps coordinator Lisa Bobrowski screens a video of Peace Corps volunteers working in the field, followed by a Q&A session with former volunteers. Those considering work in the Peace Corps invited. *7 p.m., International Center, 603 E. Madison, room 9. Free. 647–2182.*

★**Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** *Every Wednesday.* KTC staff members introduce Buddhist thought and demonstrate basic meditation practices. *7:30–8:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** *Every Wednesday.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–3522.*

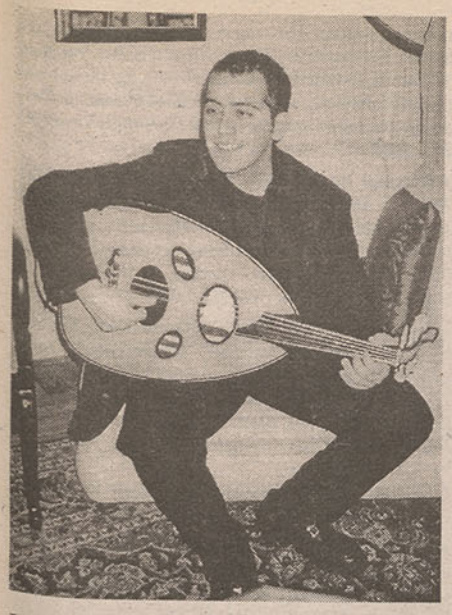
"The Witness": Vegetarian Information Network & Exchange. Screening of this recent documentary about a NYC tough guy whose love for a stray kitten initiates a remarkable change of consciousness, inspiring him to rescue abandoned animals and bring his message of compassion to the streets. *7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, classroom EC4, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). $2 donation. 428–3426.*

★**Concert: Greenhills School.** Deborah Henderson conducts the middle and high school orchestras in works by J. S. Bach, Peter Warlock, and others. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4057.*

★**Flute Choir: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone directs this music-student ensemble in a program of works from the Baroque to the contemporary. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Kirov Orchestra: University Musical Society. Valery Gergiev conducts this noted Russian ensemble, founded in the 18th century during the reign of Peter the Great, that is known for emotional, briofilled, colorful readings of orchestral works. Program: Debussy's sweeping, impressionistic *La Mer,* Prokofiev's surging Piano Concerto no. 2 (which some regard as his finest), and Tchaikovsky's dark, brooding, ultimately optimistic Symphony no. 5. Also, earlier today U-M dance professor Beth Genne offers a free talk, **"Kirov Conversations: Jewel of St. Petersburg Culture"** (noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University). Bring a bag lunch. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $16–$50 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Over the Rhine: Clear Channel Communications Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. Tonight's show includes material from the band's 1998 CD *The Darkest Night of the Year,* a melancholy Christmas album featuring both traditional carols and unconventional original takes on



Local lutenist Laith Alattar joins numerous other local artists Dec. 8 in the Ark's One Song, Many Voices: A Community Concert for Peace and Justice.

the season. Opening act is **Kim Taylor.** *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; $14 at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *Christianity as Mystical Fact. 8:15–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 662–9355.*

Swing Dancing: Michigan Union Program Board. Dancing to recorded swing music. Preceded by beginning (7:30 p.m.) and intermediate (8:30 p.m.) dance lessons. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Michigan Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the evening. *9:30 p.m.–midnight, U-Club, Michigan Union. $3 at the door. 763–5750.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "ZigZag" (David Goyer, 2001). *Today only.* Sneak preview of this Ann Arbor–bred director's coming-of-age story about a teen struggling to free himself from an abusive father. Followed by Q&A with Goyer. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. **"Amelie"** (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA.

6 THURSDAY

8th Annual Conger Holiday Art Market: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. Sale of works by 37 area artisans, including pistachio shell paintings, memory boards, serigraphed clothing, wall dolls, antique linen, pashmina shawls, chenille knits, soft sculpture, ornaments, stationery, angels, faux fur, wind chimes, jewelry, pottery, silver, boxes, books, coats, tiles, and more. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Also, the Conger Group hosts its annual "Holiday Home Tour" today (see below). *9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. $5 admission. 996–8679.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Adults at Leisure Coffee Hour,"** a social support discussion group, led by local social worker Phyllis Herzig, that offers a chance to socialize, listen to music, tell jokes, and relax. At 11 a.m., educational or cultural presentation. Today: **"Timepieces: Personal Biographies,"** a talk by Stephanie Kadel-Taras on writing your memories. Also this month: a **Hanukkah celebration** with children from the JCC Early Childhood Center (December 13), former Parke-Davis vice presidents Stuart Dombey and David Herzig discuss **"All You Wanted to Know about Drug Development but Were Afraid to Ask"** (December 20), and a **"Movie Day"** featuring viewing and discussion of a film TBA from the Gelman Jewish Heritage Video Collection (December 27). At 1 p.m., **Current Events,** a discussion group led by a facilitator TBA. The program concludes with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group** (2:15–3:15 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). All invited. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

Holiday Home Tour: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of 4 area homes, all within a short drive of one another, spectacularly decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Ticket includes admission to the Holiday Art Market (see above). *10 a.m.–8 p.m., various locations. Tickets $15 in advance at Heslop's, Back Alley Gourmet, Vintage to Vogue, and Nicola's Books; $20 at the Holiday Art Market and tour homes. 995–8370.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Thursday except December 27.* Barnes & Noble staffers present storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 2–9. Today's topic: **"Holiday Fun."** Also this month: **"Hanukkah"** (December 13) and **"Christmas"** (December 20). *11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

Thursday Forum: First Presbyterian Church. *Every Thursday except December 27.* Today: fellowship. Also this month, U-M creative writing grad students read their **"Poetry and Prose"** (December 13), and First Presbyterian residency ministry program director Eldon Beery discusses **"New Perspectives on Christmas"** (December 20). All invited. *Noon–1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church social hall, 1432 Washtenaw. $4.50 (includes buffet lunch). 662–4466.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *December 6, 13, 15, 20, & 23.* Performances by local artists. Today: a **classical sampler** by the Borodin Ensemble, a U-M medical student group. Also this month: a **snowflake cutting demo** by popular local snowflake artist Thomas Clark (December 13, 12:10–2 p.m.), a **holiday concert** by the Ann Arbor Civic Chorus (December 15, 3 p.m.), **"Seasonal Harmonies"** by the U-M hospital staff vocal ensemble Counterpoint (December 20), and **madrigals** by the local Arbor Consort a cappella ensemble (December 23, 1:30–4 p.m.). *12:10 p.m. (unless otherwise indicated), U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**Book Lovers' Club: Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.** All invited to a book discussion. Pulitzer Prize–winning author John Hersey's ***Hiroshima*** is an acclaimed 1946 collection of firsthand accounts by Hiroshima bombing survivors. Nathaniel Philbrick's ***In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*** offers a gripping account of the disaster that inspired *Moby Dick.* Anton Myrer's engaging novel ***The Last Convertible*** chronicles the lives of 5 Harvard students from WW II to the 70s. *Note:* All books available on tape at the library for visually challenged readers. Refreshments. *1–3 p.m., Washtenaw County Library Conference Room B, County Service Center, Washtenaw Ave. & Hogback Rd. Free. 971–6059.*

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** *Every Thursday.* A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. *2–7 p.m., CTN studio, Edison Center, 425 S. Main, Suite LL114. Free. Reservations accepted Tues. through Fri. of the week preceding your appearance. 769–7422.*

Kids Meeting: Washtenaw Chess Club. *Every Thursday.* All kids ages 5–12 invited to play chess with their peers. Chess sets and clocks provided. Also, a weekly tournament, 4:30–6:30 p.m. *4–7 p.m., Chess Express, 220 S. Main (below Elmo's Supershirts). $3 (first-time visitors, free). 665–0612.*

"Too Early/Too Late: Temporality and Repetition in Hong Sang-Su's Films": U-M Center for Korean Studies. Talk by University of California East Asian language and literature professor Kyung Hyun Kim. *4–6 p.m., 1644 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–1825.*

★**Michael Rodemer: U-M School of Art & Design.** Lecture by this U-M computer artist, whose abstract artworks and installations employ various

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EVENTS *continued*

combinations of computer-generated art, living trees, neon, cast metal, music, and more. Last spring Rodemer collaborated with U-M dance department composer and keyboardist Steve Rush to create the computer-generated opera *vidGod. 5 p.m., Art & Architecture Bldg. auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–1300.*

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** See 5 Wednesday. 5 & 7 p.m.

★**"Japanese Fishermen's Coats from the Awaji Islands": U-M Museum of Art.** Asian Art curator Maribeth Graybill discusses this current exhibit (see Galleries). *6:30 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

Fitness Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. *Every Thursday.* All beginning (and returning) runners, joggers, and walkers invited to join this new noncompetitive, fitness-oriented weekly workout. *7 p.m., U-M Track Bldg., Hoover at S. State. U-M pass ($5 per day) required. 663–5680, 663–9740.*

★**Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition.** All invited to discuss ways to improve the quality and quantity of bicycling and walking facilities in the county. *7 p.m., Ecology Center, 117 N. Division. Free. 487–9058.*

★**Mothers & More.** *December 6 & 20.* All moms invited to meet other moms who have adjusted their careers to spend more time with their children. Today: a **holiday party** with food, fun, and a hilarious white elephant gift exchange. Preregistration required. Also this month: **"Pampering Yourself"** features a series of stations offering music, massages, manicures, cosmetics to sample, and more. *7–9 p.m. Genesis Foundation (Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church), 2309 Packard. Free. 327–4901.*

★**Washtenaw Toastmasters.** *Every Thursday.* Members develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a supportive environment. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., 777 E. Eisenhower dining room (at S. State). Free to visitors. Dues: $52 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 572–9978.*

★**Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health.** Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

★**"Menopause Naturally": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local naturopathic physician Michele Loewe. *7–8:30 p.m., PFC, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**"Martin Luther King, Jr. Presentations"** *December 6, 13, & 20.* Community High civil rights history teacher Thom Saffold examines the beliefs of Martin Luther King Jr. and how King might regard current events. Today: Saffold discusses **"Martin Luther King Jr. and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict."** Also this month: **"The Kind of Peace Martin Luther King Jr. Hated"** (December 13) and **"Martin Luther King's Christmas Message of Hope"** (December 20). *7 p.m., St. Aidan's, 1679 Broadway at Baits Dr. Free. 741–4475.*

★**"First Thursdays" Open Mike Night: Volume Poetry Project.** Youth and adult poets invited to share their poetry, hip-hop, spoken word, "and other verbal craziness," urges an organizer. *7–9 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main (the old Ark bldg.). Free. 214–9995.*

Christine Rutledge Russell & Ksenia Nosikova: Kerrytown Concert House. Violist Russell and pianist Nosikova, both University of Iowa music professors, perform a Bach suite and sonatas by York Bowen and Cesar Franck. *Evening time TBA, KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Cost TBA. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

★**Huron Hills Lapidary Society.** All invited to bring red and green minerals to show, discuss, and swap. *7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. at Davis. Free. 665–7166.*

★**Turkish Studies Colloquium: U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk on an Ottoman topic TBA by University of Chicago Ottoman studies professor Marc Baer. *7:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0350.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). $3. 769–4324, 426–0241.*

★**Choir Concert: Greenhills School.** Ben Cohen leads the middle and high school choirs in a wide-ranging program that ranges from doo-wop and jazz to classical music by Faure, Mendelssohn, Vaughan Williams, and the Real Group. Followed by refreshments. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4057.*

★**Barnhill Band: EMU Music Department.** This 75-piece EMU town-gown ensemble, directed by Jerry Robbins, is joined by the **Ypsilanti Community Choir** for a festive holiday concert. *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Annual Winter Sing": Pioneer High School.** Kenneth Westerman leads all 8 of the school's vocal groups in a concert that includes "Dona Nobis Pacem," "Hard Coal Miner," "Edelweiss," "Wintertime Aglow," "The Earth Adorned," "All Ye Who Music Love," "Rose of Sharon," and more. Followed by a reception in the cafeteria. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994–2120.*

★**First Thursdays Performance Series: U-M Museum of Art.** Dance, music, improv, and theater performances by local and student artists TBA. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**Chamber Music Recital: U-M School of Music.** Music-student chamber ensembles perform works TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0583.*

Dixie Power Trio: The Ark. Actually a quartet, this Dixieland ensemble led by tubaist Andy Kochenour plays everything from New Orleans jazz to Louis Jordan jump blues to Lennon & McCartney to the Ramones. Other members include banjoist Bert Carlson, drummer Byron McWilliams, and Chelsea native Zach Smith on trumpet, accordion, and washboard. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Bob Margolin Blues Band: Firefly Club. Blues band led by Margolin, a guitarist in Muddy Waters's band from 1973 to 1980 who plays everything from down-and-dirty Chicago blues to rambunctious jump blues to rollicking barrelhouse blues. A virtuoso of slide and other blues guitar styles, he is also known for his resonant, throaty vocals and memorable blues originals. *8 p.m.–midnight (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets $12 in advance and at the door. 665–9090.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. *December 6–8.* U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $5 at the door only. 763–5460. 763–5461.*

"Interviewing the Audience": U-M Office of Major Events. Veteran New York actor and writer **Spalding Gray** is known for the angst-filled comedy of his 18 autobiographical monologues, including the Obie-winning *Swimming to Cambodia.* In *Interviewing the Audience,* which he has been doing on and off for 2 decades, he pulls a few people from the Michigan Theater audience and conducts onstage interviews that result in a kind of voyeuristic "reality theater." In one recent show, the personal nature of revelations shared between Gray and his subjects ratcheted the show's intensity up to what the *Seattle Times* called "a raw display that out-Oprahed Oprah." *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $20–$35 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Spinning into Butter": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** *December 6–8.* Brian Lobel directs U-M students in Rebecca Gilman's drama about racism on a small college campus. *Evening time TBA, Arena Stage (Frieze basement), 105 S. State St. Free. 764–6800.*

"The Grand Duke": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. *December 6–9.* Victoria Rondeau and David Zinn direct this accomplished local town-and-gown company in this satirical tale of a theater troupe that successfully schemes to overthrow the government. Grand Duke Rudolph, betrothed to a wealthy but intimidating baroness, grows reluctant to wed because he fears losing his money. The local theater troupe's leader, Ludwig, persuades the grand duke that he can slide out of the marriage by giving up his throne for a day, but Ludwig then stages a power grab, resulting in outrageous hijinks that ridicule human foibles. Cast: Gordon Barnett, Michael Borysow, Patricia Cheng, Peter Christian, Arielle Doneson, Robert Golden, Lori Gould, Matt Grace, Milena Grubor, Ju-

lia Head, Elizabeth Mihalo, Sarah Packard, Peter Roach, David Skalinder, Rob Stow, Stephanie Teeters, and Alan Wineman. *8 p.m., Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets $15–$18 in advance at the Michigan League Ticket office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"Internal Affairs": Phoenix Productions. *December 6–9 & 13–16.* Eric Maurer directs the premiere of local playwright Joseph Zettelmaier's very funny comedy about an ambitious young novelist with writer's block. When the devil (in the form of a woman) offers him success and wealth, he must decide whether greatness is worth the price. Cast: Trevor Rosen, Stacy Cole, Noah Philpot, Kathy Krater, Sherri Stankorp, and Amy Parrot. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $12) in advance and at the door. 480–9577.*

★**"Julius Caesar": U-M Theater Department.** *December 6–9.* U-M drama professor Phillip Kerr directs theater students in Shakespeare's early tragedy exploring the savage ironies that shape political struggle and conflict. *8 p.m., Trueblood Theater, Frieze Bldg., 105 S. State. Free, but tickets (available at the Michigan League Box Office) required. 764–2538.*

"The Grapes of Wrath": U-M Theater Department. *December 6–9.* U-M theater professor Darryl Jones directs U-M drama students in Frank Galati's Tony-winning 1990 adaptation of John Steinbeck's classic novel about the crushing inequities of the American experience endured by refugees from the Oklahoma dust bowl seeking new fortunes in the lush, fruitful fields of California. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets $15 & $20 (students, $7) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"The Glass Menagerie": EMU Theater Department. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Elliott Branch: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *December 6–8.* This Detroit-bred comic who now lives in L.A. is known for his high-speed, hurricane-force monologues offering goofy, somewhat profane takes on a wide range of topics from the oddities of childhood to broken-down cars, cars with fancy options, beer, and beer commercials. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 (Thurs.) & $8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

Argentinian Tango: The Latin and Argentine Tango Club of Detroit. *Every Thursday except December 27.* Tango dancing to recorded music. Preceded by beginning milonga and tango lessons, 7:30–9 p.m. *9 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $10 (students, $5). (313) 561–3236.*

★**"The Jammin' Olympics of Poetry": U-M Michigan Union Arts and Programs.** *December 6 & 20.* A "word explosion," according to organizers, with an open mike and a poetry slam with prizes. Coffee. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Michigan Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the evening. *9 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. Free. 763–3202.*

FILMS

MTF. "Amelie" (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001). See 1 Saturday. Mich., times TBA. **U-M Pierpont Commons. "Perfumed Ball"** (Paulo Caldas & Lirio Ferriera, 1997). *Today only.* Video screening of this fresh, vibrant mockumentary about 1930s Brazilian outlaw Benjamin Abrahao. Portuguese, subtitles. FREE. 647–6838. Pierpont Commons Atrium (2101 Bonisteel, North Campus), 7 p.m. **U-M Wiesner Symposium. "Gattaca"** (Andrew Niccol, 1997). *Today only.* Engaging, provocative futuristic sci-fi thriller about a genetically imperfect man in a genetically perfected society. Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman. Followed by discussion led by U-M English professor Eric Rabkin. FREE. 763–2582. 100 Hutchins Hall (625 S. State), 7 p.m. **The Underworld. "Anime Night."** *Every Thursday.* Free DVD showings of feature-length Japanese anime films. No admission after 9:30 p.m. Tonight: volume 7 of *Escaflowne,* a sci-fi action-romance fantasy. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. 998–0547. The Underworld (1202 South University), 9 p.m.

7 FRIDAY

Bake Sale and Arts and Crafts Sale: Northeast Senior Center. Sale of home-baked goods and a variety of handmade crafts made and sold by local seniors, who are invited to register for a table to display and sell their work. *8 a.m.–1 p.m., Domino's Farms, Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free admission. 996–0070.*

★**"Braving the New World: Benefits and Challenges of Genetic Knowledge": U-M Wiesner Symposium.** *December 7 & 8.* Day-long symposium with prominent life sciences scholars from around the country. Keynote speaker is National Human Genome Research Institute director Francis Collins. Panel discussion topics today include "Race, Ethnicity, and the Human Genome," "Genes and Human Nature," and "Designing Life." Workshop topics tomorrow include "The Challenges of Commercialization" and "Values, Ethics, and Social Impact Programs." Today's program is followed by a dinner (6:30 p.m., Michigan Union Anderson Room), with a talk by National Bioethics Advisory Committee chairman Harold Shapiro, the former U-M president. Also, in conjunction with the symposium, a showing of the sci-fi film *Gattaca* (see 6 Thursday Films listing). *8:30 a.m.–6 p.m. (Dec. 7) & 8:30 a.m.–noon (Dec. 8), U-M Business School Hale Auditorium, 701 Tappan. Free, but preregistration required at www.wiesner.research.umich.edu. 763–2582.*

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. *December 7 & 8.* This extremely popular sale features used Christmas decorations (artificial Christmas trees, tested sets of tree lights, candles, etc.), all sorts of children's games and toys, skis, skates, bicycles, sleds, books, hardware, appliances, boots, coats, and lots of good-quality furniture, from chairs and couches to lamps, desks, and cabinets. *9 a.m.–1 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665–0450.*

★**Children's Concert: EMU Music Department.** EMU dance students present Prokofiev's classic fairy-tale ballet ***Cinderella.*** The score is performed by the EMU Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony. *10 a.m. & 12:15 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Holiday Party Appetizers": The Produce Station.** *Every Friday.* Pastry chef and educator Joan Mathison offers a wealth of growing and cooking tips, recipes, and taste samples. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., Produce Station, 1629 S. State. Free. 66–FRUIT.*

★**"Studying Social Change and the Family in Nepal": U-M Centers for South and Southeast Asian Studies.** Talk by U-M sociology professor William Axinn. Bring a bag lunch; Indian or Thai lunch ($4) available to take out or eat during the lecture, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–5261.*

★**U-M Program in the Comparative Study of Social Transformations.** Lecture on topic TBA by University of California–San Diego comparative literature professor Lisa Lowe. *4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 936–1595.*

CANCELED

★**"The Nitrogen Isotope Composition of Soils and Ecosystems": U-M Department of Geological Sciences.** Talk by University of California geology professor Robert Amundson. *4–5 p.m., 1528 C. C. Little Bldg., 425 East University. Free. 647–9938.*

★**Reception: U-M Residential College.** Opening reception for an exhibit (see Galleries) of student artworks in various media. *4–6 p.m., RC art gallery, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.*

"The Great Ypsilanti Train Robbery of 1916: An Evening of Historical License": Angel Food Cafe. Monthly dinner theater production of John Bower's high-spirited mystery, an over-the-top blend of melodrama, comedy, and song-and-dance that's loosely based on an actual heist that is still unsolved. The characters include 2 competitive cops, a suffragist, a dean of women, and a philosophical Henry Ford. Diners, who attempt to solve the mystery, are each assigned the identity of a genuine 1916 Ypsilanti resident and are welcome to come in period attire. The cast includes playwright Bower, Tim Gerken, Sara Grivas, Joey Klei, and Janelle Reahm. *5:15 & 8:15 p.m., Angel Food Cafe, 6 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. $39.95 in advance only. 483–0135.*

★**"26th Annual Holiday Evening in Saline": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce.** *December 7 & 8.* Two days of holiday fun. *Friday events:* a **community tree lighting** (7 p.m., Ann Arbor–Saline Road at Michigan Avenue), followed by a **parade** (down Michigan Avenue from Harris Street past the tree) that culminates with Santa's arrival. After the parade, kids at Santa's Village (at Lucky Bucks Cafe at 131 E. Michigan) can have their **picture taken with Santa.** Also, Ann Arbor Dance Classics members give a **dance performance** (5:30 p.m., Union School, 200 N. Ann Arbor St.). Open house at the **Saline Depot Museum** (5–8 p.m.). *Saturday events:* a "Treasure Trail to Santa" treasure hunt through

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Chuck Close, *Alex Katz (detail)*, 1991, woodcut

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EVENTS *continued*

Busch's Shopping Plaza shops (10 a.m.–2 p.m., 565 E. Michigan). Free shuttle buses between sites. *5:30–10 p.m. (Fri.) & 10 a.m.–2 p.m. (Sat.), downtown Saline. Free. 429–4494.*

★**U-M Gay & Lesbian Alumni Association: Common Language Bookstore.** All invited to this reception for socializing. Prospective new members welcome. *6–8 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 663–0036.*

★**Open Card and Board Gaming Night: The Underworld.** *Every Friday.* All invited to play any of the collectible card or board games that the Underworld carries—but you must find your own opponents. Also, there are 2 **Magic: the Gathering tournaments** this month: one using type 2 deck ($5; bring your own cards) on December 7 and one using an Odyssey sealed deck ($15 includes cards) on December 21. *6 p.m.–midnight, Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown: U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning.** Talks by this husband-and-wife architectural team known for designs that exaggerate, stylize, or tweak cultural icons. Venturi's rejection of modernist austerity is summed up in his maxim "Less is a bore," a play on celebrated modernist Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's dictum "Less is more." *6 p.m., Art & Architecture lecture hall, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–1300.*

★**"A Matter of Perspective": Washington Street Gallery.** Reception for local artist Lynda Cole's exhibit (see Galleries) of digital artworks that explore reactions to the WTC attacks. *7–9 p.m., Washington Street Gallery, 215 E. Washington. Free. 761–2287.*

★**"Talking, Reading, and Writing: What's the Connection?": Barnes & Noble.** U-M Communicative Disorders Clinic associate director Joanne Pierson discusses the current understanding of the role that oral language plays in children's literacy development. Parents encouraged to bring their children's favorite books. *7–8:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**"Michigan Environment": Ann Arbor District Library/People's Food Co-op.** Talk by Michigan Environmental Council president **Lana Pollack,** a former state senator from Ann Arbor. In conjunction with the current AADL exhibit (see Galleries) of Mary Beth Chavis's environmental collage. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Self-Altering Mechanical Forms with Circulatory Systems": Michigan Guild Gallery.** Reception for an exhibit (see Galleries) of U-M grad student Mark Porter's lithographs and kinetic sculptures. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Guild Gallery, 118 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–3382.*

★**"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association.** *Every Friday through December 21.* Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling in 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Entertainment includes performances by **Flint's Carousel Band Organ, Arbor Consort,** and bagpiper **Herm Steinman.** Also, tonight only: **Harmony 4 Fun, Choral Connection, County Connection** Sweet Adelines chorus, and the **Boar's Tooth Dance Group.** December 7 & 14 only: the **Community High Jazz Band.** December 21 only: the **Patchwork Quartet** and **Boys Night Out.** *7–9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.*

★**Caroling Party: Kempf House Center for Local History.** All invited to gather at this historic home and warm up your voices around the newly tuned 1877 Steinway piano before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols accompanied by the Salvation Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot cider and cookies. *7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994–4898.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join hands in a circle with other dancers and sing sacred phrases from various cultures and traditions. Beginners welcome; all dances taught. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. $5 requested donation. 996–1332.*

★**Mike Karoub: Arborland Borders.** Performance by this area cellist whose repertoire ranges from classical to jazz. *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Jennifer Erb: Liberty Borders.** This local folk- and blues-influenced singer-songwriter performs selections from her recent CD, *City of Rust. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** *December 7–9.* RC drama teacher

country music

Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum
Winter's grace

Sometimes country and bluegrass Christmas albums can devolve into exercises in self-congratulation, but *Winter's Grace* by Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum is fully as adventurous as the other work of this partnership. It's a Christmas album that challenges and entrances by turns, and it should make a superb live show when Lewis and Rozum come to the Ark on Tuesday, December 4.

Fans of Lewis's precise songwriting may have been skeptical about this material, which includes none of her own compositions. But the song choices are inspired and sometimes quite involved, with several pieces by writers little known outside the Bay Area. There is a pagan piece called "Earth Moves in a Mysterious Way," and a long ballad about a lonely soul at holiday time who encounters a fallen angel on the ground and prays, for the first time, for its return to the heavens. Lewis offers Jean Ritchie's exquisite portrait of "The time when the corn is all into the barn / The old cow's breath so frosty white / And the morn along the fallow field / Does silver shine." And Rozum sings a fine version of Merle Haggard's searing tale of Christmas poverty, "If We Make It through December."

Interspersed with such serious pieces are a few relaxed folkie classics like the Red Clay Ramblers' "Hot Buttered Rum," a version of the bluegrass chestnut "Christmas Time's a-Comin'," a cover of a lovely Garth Brooks holiday tune called "The Gift," and a few traditional seasonal songs. Yet the mood of the whole is not holly-jolly but quiet and extremely reflective, and hearing the music performed live should only intensify these qualities. The listener's attention is focused on the more complex numbers by some remarkable instrumentals, several of them from mandolinist Rozum. Slow and hypnotic rather than flashy in the usual bluegrass manner, they transport the listener into the winter landscapes in which the songs unfold. One is intended to evoke the sound of a German carol played on a zither.

Lewis and Rozum don't make it out to this part of the country often, and they're not to be missed. Hard as it might seem to accomplish, this is Christmas music for both those who love Christmas and those who don't care for it much. This moment of winter's grace should allow the hearer a space of contemplation as quiet and sharp as a clear winter night itself. —*James M. Manheim*

Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in Tony Kushner's popular 2-play opus, an expansive work that touches on various religious, moral, political, and racial themes in the course of exploring the apocalyptic fears at the heart of contemporary culture. The 2 plays, *Millennium Approaches* and *Perestroika*, focus on 2 couples, one Mormon and the other gay, who are faced with challenging revelations: the Mormon husband discovers his homosexuality, and one of the gay partners is diagnosed with AIDS. *7 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free; donations accepted. 647–4354.*

★**Bardic Night: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join local neopagans for an evening of free-form drumming, dancing, singing, poetry, and storytelling. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 697–2514.*

★**First Friday Shabbas: Jewish Cultural Society.** A family-oriented program of candle lighting, song, and other Jewish cultural rituals. Followed by dessert and discussion. All invited. *7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

★**"Cover to Cover": Ann Arbor District Library.** Book discussion group led by AADL staff focusing on popular books and authors. Tonight: *A New Song: The Mitford Years,* Jan Karon's novel about a retired Episcopal minister who accepts an interim position as pastor of a tiny island parish in North Carolina's Outer Banks. *7:30–9 p.m., AADL Loving Branch, 3042 Creek Dr. (off Packard just east of Platt). Free. Preregistration required. 994–2353.*

★**TubaChristmas.** All invited to listen to or perform in (bring your instrument) an outdoor concert of holiday carols performed on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritones. Also, a performance by the **U-M Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble** led by Fritz Kaenzig. Registration and rehearsal for musicians begins at 4 p.m. *7:30 p.m., U-M Diag. Free (performers, $5). 972–4113.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *December 7 & 21.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's *Freud, Jung, and Spiritual Psychology.* Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway (1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes). Free. 662–6398.*

First Friday Square and Contra Dance. Local caller John Freeman calls dances to live music by Licketysplit. All dances taught; beginners and older kids welcome. No partner necessary. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94. $7 (children, $3) at the door. 665–8405.*

★**First Friday: Webster Church.** A relaxing evening of discussion and music. Arab-American Chaldean Council representatives Kahled Hanna and Bob Ghannum lead a discussion on **"Cultural Diversity: Arab-Americans in the Wake of the Events of September 11."** Also, the local **Vocal Arts Ensemble** reprises a cappella choral works from its December 2 concert (see listing). *8 p.m., Webster Church, corner of Farrell & Webster Church roads, Webster Twp. (Take US-23 north to North Territorial Rd., go west 3 miles to Webster Church Rd., then 1 mile south to Farrell.) Free. 426–5115.*

★**Open Mike.** *Every Friday.* All poets and musicians invited. *8–9:30 p.m., Espresso Royale Caffe, 214 S. Main. Free. 484–0249.*

Poetry Night: Volume Poetry Project. Performance by the nationally acclaimed Atlanta poetry slam team (Al Leston, Daniel Roop, Ayodele, and Seed), whom local 2-time Ann Arbor Grand Slam poetry champion Jeff Kass calls "by far the best poetry slam team I've ever seen," with "a whole new level of writing sophisticated poetry, blended with compelling performances." The Atlanta team competes tonight in a poetry slam against a local team that includes Kass, reigning Ann Arbor Poetry Slam champion Angie Beatty, and national youth slam champions Sailor J and Mollie Raynor. Also, performances by other local youth poets. *8–10 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium. $5 (students, $3). 572–1732.*

58 Greene. A program of contemporary pop by this popular 15-member U-M coed a cappella ensemble. Also, guest performers TBA. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $7 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**Symphony Orchestra: EMU Music Department.** Kevin Miller conducts this EMU music-student ensemble in a program highlighted by a staged presentation, in collaboration with the EMU dance department, of Prokofiev's classic fairy-tale ballet *Cinderella.* Also, works by other Russian composers TBA. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"An Evening of Mozart and Brahms": U-M School of Music.** Faculty recital featuring pianist Martin Katz, violinist Paul Kantor, hornist Soren Hermansson, and vocalist Carmen Pelton. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0583.*

★**Symphony Band: U-M School of Music.** Michael Haithcock conducts this music-student ensemble in a program that includes Stucky's arrangement of Copland's stirring *Lincoln Portrait.* Also, excerpts from Purcell's *Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary,* Grainger's "Hill Song no. 2," and Schuller's divertimento *On Winged Flight. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0583.*

★**Cabaret Recital: U-M School of Music.** U-M musical theater professor Joan Morris directs her students, soprano Melissa Clairmont and pianist Pat Johnson, in a recital of songs by Cole Porter, Kurt Weill, William Bolcom, and others. *8 p.m., Clements Library, 909 South University. Free. 764–0583.*

Barrage: Chelsea House Orchestra. Infectiously over-the-top worldbeat by this acclaimed young troupe from Calgary whose music blends jazz, swing, rock, klezmer, Celtic, country, calypso, and many other influences. The band includes 7 violinists, 2 percussionists, and a guitarist, bassist, and keyboardist. *8 p.m., Chelsea High School auditorium, 740 N. Freer. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10) in advance at Chelsea Pharmacy and at the door. 475–1957.*

Special Consensus: The Ark. This ace bluegrass band from Chicago, led by banjoist Greg Cahill, is known for high-energy, foot-stomping shows. Its repertoire includes traditional standards, originals, and contemporary tunes. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Julius Caesar": U-M Theater Department.** See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Grapes of Wrath": U-M Theater Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Glass Menagerie": EMU Theater Department. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Internal Affairs": Phoenix Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

★**"Spinning into Butter": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 6 Thursday. Evening time TBA.

"The Grand Duke": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Elliott Branch: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** All invited to peer through the telescope on the Angell Hall roof for celestial visions. Members of the U-M Student Astronomical Society on hand to answer questions. *9–11 p.m., fifth floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left). Free. 936–3626.*

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never married parents invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s–90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $7 (PWP members, $5). 973–1933.*

Joey DeFrancesco: Bird of Paradise. *December 7 & 8.* This 31-year-old prodigy from Philadelphia, the son of the great jazz organist Papa John DeFrancesco, is widely recognized as the best of the

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current generation of jazz organists. By turns soulful, funky, and groove-oriented, his playing displays unbelievable chops, and he approaches all the material in his varied repertoire of standards and originals with superabundant energy. *9 & 11 p.m., Bird of Paradise, 306 S. Main. Tickets $20 (students with ID, $15) in advance and at the door. 662–8310 (after 7 p.m.).*

Danzon by Six: Firefly Club. *December 7 & 8.* Acclaimed Cuban jazz sextet from Miami led by the Uruguayan jazz violinist **Federico Britos.** Its repertoire includes danzon (a forerunner of the mambo), boleros, sones, cha-chas, and other traditional forms. Jazz great Charlie Haden calls its debut CD *The First Danzon* "brilliant, exotic, innovative." *9 & 11 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets $20 at the door only. 665–9090.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Miracle on 34th Street" (George Seaton, 1947). *December 7–9.* Delightful comedy-fantasy of a department store Santa who, after meeting a skeptical child, is hauled into court to prove his identity. Maureen O'Hara, Natalie Wood. FREE. 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 5 p.m. **U-M Center for Chinese Studies. "The Blue Kite"** (Tian Zhuang-Zhuang, 1993). *Today only.* Acclaimed, controversial film, told from the perspective of a young boy, tracing the fate of a Beijing family and their neighbors and friends during the social and political upheavals of the 50s and 60s. Mandarin, subtitles. No children under 12 admitted. FREE. 764–6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 8 p.m. **U-M Center for Japanese Studies. "Play Within a Frame."** *Today only.* A series celebrating Japanese filmmakers who tweak moviegoer expectations and filmmaking conventions. 764–6307. FREE. Japanese, subtitles. Today: Noboru Tanaka's 1975 film ***A Woman Called Sada Abe.*** Tanaka used a porn film assignment as the springboard for this tragic story of a rich man's daughter who becomes a prostitute. Mature audiences. Lorch Hall Auditorium (Tappan at Monroe), 7 p.m.

8 SATURDAY

★**"Second Saturday Bird Walk": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look for and discuss northern shrikes, bluebirds, chickadees, cardinals, and other wintering birds. Bring binoculars and a bird guide. Followed by hot drinks in the lodge. *9 a.m., Rolling Hills County Park, 7660 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti Twp. (Take US-23 south to the Willis Rd. exit, go east, then north on Stony Creek.) Free ($3 per vehicle park entrance fee). 971–6337.*

★**"Washtenaw County Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** WAS member Rob French leads a trip (in the WAS field trip van) to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township, and possibly other area sites, to look for unusual glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's, and other rare gulls. 9 gull species have been spotted in the county in recent years. *9 a.m., meet at Huron High School parking lot, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. Limited to 10 participants; preregistration required. 994–8418.*

★**Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to join Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members for restoration work throughout the Arb. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you have them. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the west end of Dow Prairie (take the gravel path leading east from the gate just past the parking lot on Nichols Dr., the dirt road that runs off E. Medical Center Dr. just off Fuller Rd.). Free. 998–9540.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *December 8 & 9.* Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Food concessions. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (810) 227–1637.*

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. *December 8 & 9.* A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. *9 a.m.–noon, Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663–0362.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new. Also, a separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit 3 children's books per family). *10 a.m.–4 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 327–4560.*

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** *December 8 & 11.* Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a chance to make a **bird feeder** from a paper milk carton or 2-liter pop bottle (bring your own). *10 a.m.–noon (Dec. 8) & 3–5 p.m. (Dec. 11). Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.*

★**"Cosmic Discovery Day!": U-M Exhibit Museum.** Family-oriented program of activities and displays on space exploration. Special events include **"All about Astronauts"** (noon & 2 p.m.), a slide- and video-illustrated talk by Michigan Space Center director Stewart Bailey, and **"The Soviet Manned Lunar Landing Program"** (11 a.m. & 1 p.m.), a talk by Peter Alway, a renowned local expert on rockets and model rocketry. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. Free. 764–0478.*

★**American Girl Club: Barnes & Noble.** All girls ages 7–12 invited to delve into the world of the American Girl collection of historical dolls. *10:30 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 677–6475.*

★**"Holidays Around the World": Liberty Borders.** Ypsilanti harpist Donna Novack presents a program of harp and percussion music that celebrates the world's holidays. *11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Dexter's Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 1 Saturday. Today's special events: **holiday light parade,** a downtown parade in which all floats are decked out in lights. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Graceann Warn and Constance Harper Studio Show. Show and sale of mixed-media works by these 2 local artists. *Noon–5 p.m., 1524 Strieter Rd. (take Liberty west to left on Strieter). Free admission. 665–2374.*

German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History. *December 8, 9, 15, & 16.* This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical turn-of-the-century German-American celebration of Christmas. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. $1 (children under 12, free). 994–4898.*

"One Song, Many Voices: A Community Concert for Peace and Justice": The Ark. Performances by a diverse group of local artists. Includes multi-textured African and African American stories and songs by **LaRon Williams,** contemporary and traditional Arabic music by **Laith Alattar,** exuberant choral harmonies by the **Sacred Song** chorus, quirky jazz-based poetry by **Arwulf Arwulf,** magical Jewish tales by **Laura Pershin,** soaring Native American music by flutist **Lee Black Bear,** and exquisite vocal improvisations by **Kathy Moore.** Also, singer-songwriters **Jesse Richards, Yarrow Halstead,** and **Carol Haddad.** Proceeds benefit Doctors Without Borders, which is providing medical aid to Afghanistan, and Asociacion Tepayac de New York, which provides assistance to undocumented immigrants who lost family members or employment in the September 11 attacks. *1 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12 (students & seniors, $10) in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio and Native Ways Gallery, $15 (students & seniors, $10) at the door. 368–8089.*

★**"Foxes, Coyotes, and Wolves": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Slide-illustrated talk by Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck about the nature and habits of these 3 predators. *2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426–8211.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Duke. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $17 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**"Detroit Across Three Centuries": Arborland Borders.** Prolific Detroit-born author Richard Bak, an EMU grad, reads from his informative, photo-filled history of the city. Also, signing. *2 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**African American Book Club: Nicola's Books.** Local romance writer **Beverly Jenkins** joins the group to discuss ***Before the Dawn,*** her novel about a comely African American woman whose fortunes take a surprising turn when she inherits both a tavern and her mother's paramour. *4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**"Amahl and the Night Visitors": First Congregational Church.** *December 8 & 9.* Willis Patterson directs the church's chancel choir and orchestra in Gian Carlo Menotti's opera about a crippled boy and his mother who are visited by the 3 kings following the Christmas star. The role of Amahl alternates between Kellen McCoy, Elizabeth Bourque, and Ronson Reilly; the role of the mother between Miriam

Kushel and Jin Sook Hong. *4 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 662–1679.*

"Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by local singer-actor Larry Henkel as Santa, with accompaniment by local pianist Lori Zupan. Also, holiday tunes by the Korzon Sisters jazz vocal quartet and AASO clarinetist Celia Eidex. Refreshments follow the concert. *4–5 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (children 12 and under, $5; families, $25; patrons, $50) in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, and at the door. 994–4801.*

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *December 8 & 15.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset. *5 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 480–4514.*

"Happy Hour" Annual Fall Concert: Amazin' Blue. The oldest U-M coed a cappella ensemble performs a pop concert that includes the Weather Girls' "It's Raining Men," Joni Mitchell's "River," Air's "All I Need," and more. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $8 available in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. 763–1107.*

Women's Glee Club: U-M School of Music. Sandra Snow directs this non-music-student ensemble in a program that includes U-M Digital Music Ensemble director Stephen Rush's "Assembly of Ladies." *6 & 9 p.m., U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State at South University. Tickets $5 in advance at wgc.exec@umich.edu and (if available) at the door. 764–0583.*

★**U-M Wrestling vs. CMU.** *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764–0247.*

Game Night: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join local neopagans for an evening of snacks, socializing, and games. Bring your favorite game. *7–11 p.m., location TBA. $6. 446–0730.*

Hanukkah Pajama Party: Beth Israel Congregation. Families invited to this evening of stories, songs, craft projects, and snacks. Kids encouraged to come dressed in their favorite PJs. *7–8:30 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation, 2000 Washtenaw. $3 per family. Preregistration required. 769–1651.*

★**"Angels in America": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** See 7 Friday. 7 p.m.

Women's Chamber Chorus. Leslie Austin directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in a concert of Christmas music. Also, performances by the **Chamber Maids,** a WCC sextet, and West Side Methodist's **Joyous Bell Ringers Choir.** *7:30 p.m., West Side Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donation. 677–0678.*

Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. Ruth Datz, Richard Ingram, Shayla Powell, and Donald Williams conduct 3 ensembles of talented local youth singers ages 9–16 in a program of holiday music highlighted by the world premiere of a contemporary holiday carol composed by local Pulitzer Prize–winning composer William Bolcom and his wife, Joan Morris. It is a setting of playwright Arnold Weinstein's adaptation of a text from Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows. 7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. $7 (students, seniors, & children 12 and under, $4; families, $10). 996–4404.*

"Black Forest Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Victorian-era Germany is this year's theme for this elegant evening of vintage ballroom and traditional dancing to live music by the Grand Traditions Ensemble. Includes such dances as European and American polkas, waltzes, and country dances. Singles and couples of all abilities invited to come as native Germans, European guests, or Americans abroad. Victorian attire (see www.vintagedance.com/wear.htm) encouraged but not required. Also, 2 pre-ball workshops: a set dances and etiquette workshop (1–2:30 p.m.) and an Empire quadrille workshop (2:30–4 p.m.). Refreshments. *7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $25 (couples, $40) includes workshops. Workshops only: $5 each. Preregistration required. 429–0014.*

★**"Amahl and the Night Visitors": Arbor Opera Theater.** *December 8, 14, & 15 (different locations).* Shawn McDonald leads this local opera company in Gian Carlo Menotti's one-act opera about a crippled boy and his mother who are visited by the 3 kings following the Christmas star. *8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free; donation appreciated. 998–0860.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Baries, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $4. 996–3056.*

Second Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Beginners welcome. *8–11 p.m., Webster Community Hall, across from Webster Church on Webster Church Rd. (1 mile south of North Territorial), Dexter. $7. 996–8359.*

★**Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Jonathan Shames directs this adventurous music-student ensemble in works by Anton von Webern and Sofia Gubaidulina. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0583.*

★**Katri Ervamaa: EMU Music Department.** This EMU cello professor performs Bach's Gamba Sonata, Beethoven's Sonata no. 4 in C Major, and Brahms's Sonata in F Major. Accompanists are pianist Irina Porternko and harpsichordist Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

The SILVER Measure and Piotr Michalowski: Canterbury House. Double bill. The SILVER Measure is an improvised music and mixed-media ensemble from Chicago whose recent shows have combined screenings of found film footage with improvisation. Saxophonist Michalowski, a U-M Near Eastern studies professor and Observer jazz reviewer, performs with a quartet that features members TBA from the ambient trio Blue Velvet and the avant-jazz ensemble Larval. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Hunger Coalition. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $5 donation (students, $3). 764–3162.*

Herdman, Hills, & Mangsen: The Ark. An evening of traditional and contemporary songs of the winter season by the all-star female trio of Priscilla Herdman, Anne Hills, and Cindy Mangsen. Separately, each possesses a beautifully clear soprano and a mastery of the folk ballad; together, they are known for their inventive, intricate harmonies and their interpretive warmth and poignancy. They have released 3 acclaimed CDs, *Voices, Voices of Winter,* and the recent *At the Turning of the Year. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Julius Caesar": U-M Theater Department.** See 6 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Grapes of Wrath": U-M Theater Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Glass Menagerie": EMU Theater Department. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Internal Affairs": Phoenix Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Spinning into Butter": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 6 Thursday. Evening time TBA.

"The Grand Duke": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 9 Sunday. 2 & 8 p.m.

Elliott Branch: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

The Friars: University Activities Center. Concert by this popular, lighthearted U-M Men's Glee Club octet, the U-M's oldest a cappella group. Its repertoire includes "Masochism Tango," "Moondance," "Minnie the Moocher," "Toledo, Ohio," and numerous other songs. *8:30 p.m., Lorch Hall auditorium, 611 Tappan. Tickets $7 at the door only. 763–1107.*

Joey DeFrancesco: Bird of Paradise. See 7 Friday. 9 & 11 p.m.

Danzon by Six: Firefly Club. See 7 Friday. 9 & 11 p.m.

"U.K. Meets Detroit Pop Collision": The Blind Pig. CD release party for 3 bands on the Mi5 Recordings label, a New York–based label founded by former Modern English lead guitarist Ted Mason. Mason is the songwriter and guitarist for one of tonight's bands, **The Blue Mockingbirds,** a Beatles-style Anglo-American pop band. **MercySide**, whose

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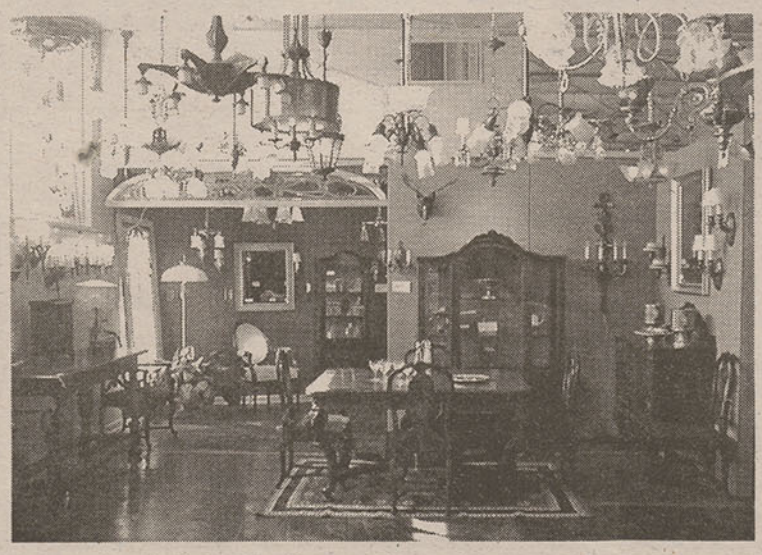

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members live in Detroit and New York, is a pop-rock band led by the ultracool femme fatale vocals of Jenna. **Jesus Jones** is an English band, best known for its 1993 hit single "Right Here, Right Now," that plays sample-driven dance-club pop. Opening act is **Esion,** a local industrial rock band, which is celebrating the release of a CD on the local Macedon label. *9:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $10 (ages 18–20, $12) in advance at the 8-Ball Saloon (beneath the Blind Pig), the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

MTF. "Miracle on 34th Street" (George Seaton, 1947). See 7 Friday. Mich., 3 p.m.

9 SUNDAY

★"Winter Embury Swamp Crossing": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Your last chance to join intrepid WCPARC naturalist Matt Heumann, who will retire from the WCPARC at the end of this month, on his very popular annual bushwhack through tangled brush, briars, frozen mud, and toxic vegetation. Not for the sunshine hiker. *10 a.m.–noon, Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd, Chelsea (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971–6337.*

★Hanukkah Party: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Games, craft activities, and latkes & doughnuts. Concludes with the traditional lighting of the menorah. All invited. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

★"Amahl and the Night Visitors": First Congregational Church. See 8 Saturday. 10:30 a.m.

★"Michigan Interfaith Global Warming Campaign": First Unitarian Universalist Church. Talk by church member Patti Gillis. *11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m., First Unitarian Church Sanctuary, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Free. 665–6158.*

★13th Annual Children's Holiday Parade: Main Street Area Association. Kids of all ages are invited to don a costume if they like and join a downtown street parade starring Santa and Mrs. Claus, whose reindeer-drawn sleigh leads floats, families (strollers welcome), city fire engines, public school buses, costumed animal characters, and area high school marching bands. Scout and Brownie troops and groups of any kind can march together with an identifying banner. The parade starts at the Federal Building and goes down Liberty to Fourth Avenue to Washington to Main to the Detroit Edison parking lot at William, where a petting farm is set up. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at Palio restaurant. Also, all invited to donate new toys for needy children to the SOS Community Toy Chest at 306 S. Main (next to Jules). *Noon (assemble), 12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Bldg., E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112 ext. 32.*

5th Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Tour of an apartment house, a church, the Hutchinson House, and 3 private homes, all decorated for Christmas. The 1883 Haab apartment house, once the largest brick building between Detroit and Chicago, offers a chance to see 5 apartments decorated by residents. The 33-room Hutchinson House's elegant details include elaborate carved mantels. Both buildings feature decorations from Quinn's Essentials. First Presbyterian Church showcases its breathtaking Tiffany window, and the Ladies' Literary Club next door exhibits area residents' collections. Other homes include an 1898 colonial home, a 1920s Tudor, and a whimsically decorated ranch home. Also, the Ypsilanti Historical Museum hosts its Holiday Open House (1–6 p.m., free) decked out in Victorian style. Proceeds benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. *1–6 p.m., various locations. Tickets $10 in advance in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden and John Leidy; in Ypsilanti at Quinn's Essentials, Me 'n' My Sister's, & Haab's Restaurant; $13 day of tour at each house. 487–9669, 544–4690.*

★"Angels in America": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. See 6 Thursday. 1 p.m.

"Goodnight Opus": The Mermaid Theater Company (Michigan Theater Foundation "Not Just for Kids Series"). This children's theater troupe from Nova Scotia presents its fantastical dramatization of Berkeley Breathed's story. Opus, the whimsical penguin star of Breathed's *Bloom County* comic strip, takes matters into his own hands when his Granny falls asleep while reading *Goodnight Room* (a spoof of *Goodnight Moon).* With friends in tow, Opus embarks on a remarkable and imaginative voyage to say good night in person to the Milky Way. All invited to come in costume. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10 (MTF members, $8.50) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★Book Fair: Liberty Borders/Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. Over 30 local musicians and authors of children's and adults' books gather to chat with fans and sign their CDs and books. *Musicians:* Paul Vornhagen, Jennifer Erb, Rick Roe, the RFD Boys, and Peter Madcat Ruth. *Children's book authors:* Joan Blos, Shutta Crum, Rhonda Gowler Green, Susan Kathleen Hartung, Cynthia Furlong Reynolds, Nancy Shaw, and Herbert Wong Yee. *Adult book authors:* Lars Bjorn & Jim Gallert, Loren Estleman, John Knott, Deborah Morgan, Heather Neff, Lev Raphael, Grace Shackman, Keith Taylor, and Sara Zettel. *2–4 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

Kids Open Mike: Oz's Music. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. Note new location. *2 p.m., Arborland Borders. 25¢ minimum donation. Reservations required. 662–8283.*

★Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

★Friends of Four-Hand Piano. Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–3942, 769–2105.*

★"The Snowflake Doctor": Nicola's Books. Local snowflake artist Thomas Clark leads a hands-on snowflake-cutting session for adults and children 8 and older. Bring sharp scissors. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

Second Friday Advanced English Frolic. English country dancing for experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. Alisa Dodson of Kentucky calls to music by A Perfect Match. Followed by **high tea** (5 p.m.), featuring delectable finger foods and other tidbits. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Tickets $15 in advance only. (313) 937–1552.*

★Holiday Carillon Recital: U-M School of Music. Faculty carillonist Margo Halsted and her students play holiday music. *2 p.m., Lurie Tower, North Campus. Free. 764–0583.*

★"Julius Caesar": U-M Theater Department. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Grapes of Wrath": U-M Theater Department. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Internal Affairs": Phoenix Productions. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Grand Duke": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 9 Sunday. 2 p.m.

★"Where Do We Go from Here? Beyond Chaos to World Community": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. A speaker TBA discusses life after September 11. *3–5 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Lewis Room. Free. 663–1870.*

Japanese Tea Ceremony: U-M Museum of Art. Tea ceremony practitioners enact a traditional Japanese tea ceremony (25 minutes) in the museum's teahouse, followed by a discussion on the ritual's symbolism. This month's theme is **"Reflecting on the Past Year."** Preceded at 2 p.m. by *shakuhachi* (Japanese flute) music performed by Michael Gould. Space fills up quickly; arrive early for a seat. *3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. $3 suggested donation. 764–UMMA.*

★"Holiday Pops": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus (Community Education & Recreation). Rebecca Vlisides directs this local chorus in a lively concert of classical and popular seasonal music, highlighted by a Jerome Kern tribute that includes "All the Things You Are," "Long Ago and Far Away," and songs from *Show Boat. 3 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington. Free. 431–3049.*

★Christmas Concert: Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this volunteer ensemble in a program of seasonal music that ranges from Leroy Anderson's *Christmas Festival* to "Jingle Bells." Also, a sing-along of traditional carols. *3 p.m., Dexter High School gym, 2615 Dexter Rd., Dexter. Free. 429–5301.*

★42nd Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: EMU Music Department/Campus Ministries.

Measure for Measure, a local men's chorus, joins the EMU University Choir, Chamber Choir, and Women's Glee Club to present the Christmas story through a program of alternating text and song adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Leonard Riccinto and Ernest Brandon conduct. *3 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Release Emotional Stress Permanently!"** Local "rapid eye" technique practitioner Robert Hughes discusses and demonstrates this technique for eliminating emotional and physical stress. *4–6 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free; donations welcome. 827–1443.*

★**'Zine Exchange Recycling Operation (ZERO).** All invited to meet local fanzine writers, check out their 'zines, trade 'zines, or just chat. Fanzines are short homemade magazines, usually photocopied, addressing a wide range of topics, from music and movies to politics, hip-hop culture, skateboarding, and more. Also, journal-like "per-zines," detailing a writer's personal life. "Build an alternative, noncommercial media distribution network," an organizer urges. "Learning to share is the first step of the revolution!" *4 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington. Free. 302–0266.*

"Calling Forth the Light": Ann Arbor Grail Singers/The Grail. Lynn Malley leads this 16-member vocal ensemble in a powerful original work that addresses the events of September 11. The ensemble performs segments of early polyphony, alternating with readings by NYC poet Sharon Thomson and NYC dramatist Kay Charles of verses from Thomson's untitled new poem, a plea for peace built around the chronicle of a witness to the disaster's struggle to regain a semblance of equilibrium. The Grail is an international Catholic lay women's organization. *4 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 517 Elizabeth. $15 (students & seniors, $12) at the door only. 995–5320.*

★**Queer Fiction Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***Memory Mambo,*** Achy Obejas's novel about a Cuban lesbian and her endearingly nutty family who are living in exile in the U.S. *4:30–6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 663–0036.*

★**"Booked for Murder": Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Deborah Morgan's *Death Is a Cabaret* and Lyn Hamilton's *The Maltese Goddess. 5–6 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**"Emotional Harvest": U-M School of Art & Design.** Reception for U-M art student Jamie Treacy's exhibit (see Galleries) of paintings, prints, and drawings. *6–9 p.m., Media Union Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 936–2082.*

★**"Advent Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** A traditional program of Advent scripture readings and choral music. Each of the 7 readings is preceded by one of the Advent chants known as the O Antiphons, which are performed by members of the church choir both in the original Gregorian chant and in Peter Hallock's contemporary version, and followed by a congregational singing of an anthem or carol. *6 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

Ann Rabson: Firefly Club. Solo performance by this acclaimed blues singer-pianist who is best known as a member of Sapphire: The Uppity Blues Women. *7–8:15 & 9–10:15 p.m. Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets $10 in advance and at the door. 665–9090.*

★**"Angels in America": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** See 7 Friday. 7 p.m.

Paul Geremia: The Ark. A longtime local favorite, Geremia is one of the country's most renowned acoustic blues guitarists. Accompanying himself on piano and harmonica as well as guitar, he's also an engagingly rough-edged singer with a repertoire that includes traditional acoustic blues in a variety of regional rural and uptown idioms, as well as many originals in traditional styles. "Every song bears his unmistakable stamp: unerringly funky rhythm and guitar runs whose spectacular virtuosity is never overdone," says a *Boston Globe* reviewer. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"28th Annual Holiday Ragtime Bash": First Unitarian Church. This popular annual tradition always draws "smiling sellout crowds," according to organizers, due to its feast of piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. Tonight's top-notch local performers include the popular husband-and-wife team of Pulitzer Prize–winning composer-pianist **William Bolcom** and mezzo-soprano **Joan Morris,** Chicago Jazz Band leader **James Dapogny,** and pianists **Terry Parrish, Mike Montgomery, Kerry Price,** and **Bob Seeley.** *7:30 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $12) in advance at Nicola's Books and at the door. 665–6158.*

Jeff Duncan's lively play *The Changeling,* opening at the Wild Swan Dec. 11, is based on an Irish folktale about a little girl and a fairy who trade worlds.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dancers. *December 9 & 16.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by samba (December 9) and salsa (December 16) lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $2. 763–6984.*

★**Campus Band: U-M School of Music.** David Papenhagen conducts this non-music-student ensemble in works by Bach, Grainger, Jack Stamp, and Joseph Weinberger. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0583.*

FILMS

MTF. "Miracle on 34th Street" (George Seaton, 1947). See 7 Friday. Mich., 3 p.m.

10 MONDAY

★**Ann Arbor Senior Computer Club: University Living Community.** All seniors 60 and older invited to share computer tips and techniques with each other. *1:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. Preregistration required. 669–3030.*

★**"Penelope's Diary": U-M School of Art & Design.** Reception for this exhibit (see Galleries) of mixed-media constructions by Ann Arbor Art Center exhibit director Deborah Campbell. *6–8 p.m., Art & Architecture Bldg. Robbins Center, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 936–2082.*

★**Hoop Drum Circle: Native Ways.** All invited to bring a native-style hoop drum (a tambourine-shaped drum) to play. Listeners welcome. *6:30–8 p.m., Native Ways Gallery, 209 N. Main. Free. 662–2099*

★**Avis Farms Toastmasters.** Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room B, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: $18 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 332–1210, ext. 176.*

★**The Barony of Cynnabar.** *Every Monday except December 3.* All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on re-creating different aspects of medieval culture, including heraldry, costuming, embroidery, and other crafts. *7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at www.cynnabar.org.*

★**"Show and Tell": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table.** Club members show and briefly discuss Civil War–related objects, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Last year's highlights included a set of rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. Public invited. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.), Superior Twp. Free. 930–0617.*

★**Medieval History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of the renowned French historian Marc Bloch's ***Feudal Society: Social Classes and Political Organization.*** Refreshments. *7–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669–0451.*

★**"A Great Lakes Swim: A Tribute to Bill Stapp": U-M Alva Gordon Sink Alumnae Group.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens visitor program coordinator Liz Elling discusses her 100-mile swim around the Leelanau Peninsula last July, in memory of noted environmental educator Bill Stapp, to raise funds for the Leelanau Conservancy. *7:30 p.m., 1402 Maywood (south off Stadium south of Pauline). Free. 995–2175.*

Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic. Concert of Celtic, bluegrass, and traditional music by this popular youth fiddle group. Proceeds benefit the Fiddlers. *7:30 p.m., Briarwood Ford showroom. Donation. 429–0004.*

★**"Chiropractic and Its Influence on Health."** Talk by local chiropractor Rob Koliner. *8 p.m., 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free. Reservations requested. 761–5908.*

★**"Game Show Night": U-M Michigan Union Arts and Programs.** All invited to watch U-M student contestants compete in mock game shows such as "College Feud," "Win, Lose, or Draw," and "Dorm Wars." *8 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. Free. 763–3202.*

★**Scandinavian Folk Music Group.** All musicians invited to join this group to perform Scandinavian folk tunes. The group is led by fiddler Bruce Sagan, who teaches some new tunes and stylings at each meeting. Newcomers welcome. *8 p.m., 2110 Fulmer Ct. (from Fulmer St., off Miller east of Maple Rd.) Free. 327–3636.*

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Jonathan Shames conducts this music-student ensemble in Stravinsky's Suites no. 1 & 2, Sibelius's Symphony no. 1, and others. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0583.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation African American Film Series. "Eve's Bayou" (Kasi Lemmons, 1997). *Today only.* Penetrating psychological portrait, set in a small southern town in the 50s, of a picture-perfect black doctor's family whose members are all wrestling with poisonous and guilty secrets. Lynn Whitfield, Samuel L. Jackson. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 6 p.m.

11 TUESDAY

"The Changeling": Wild Swan Theater. *December 11–16.* This award-winning local children's theater presents local screenwriter Jeff Duncan's original musical, based on an Irish folktale about the hilarious misadventures of a klutzy fairy and a little girl swapped into each other's worlds by a mischievous band of fairies. The show features lively step dancing by dancers from O'Hare School of Irish Dance (Detroit), with Irish music composed by uilleann pipe player Tyler Duncan (Jeff's son), a 2-time 1st-place winner in the All-Ireland world competition, and performed by Tyler Duncan and local guitarist Blake Mason. Geared toward children ages K–5. As with all Wild Swan productions, the play is interpreted in American Sign Language. Backstage touch tours and audio descriptions are available for blind audience members. Cast includes Sandy Ryder, Michele Trame Lanzi, and Desmond Ryan. *10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $8 (children, $6) at the door or in advance at 424–9591. To arrange tours or audio description, call 995–0530.*

★**"Industrial Design Student Trade Fair": U-M School of Art & Design.** Exhibit (see Galleries) of student team projects that are solutions to specific design problems. *11 a.m.–2 p.m., Media Union Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 936–2082.*

★**Peace Vigil: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** All invited to gather to call for an end of bombing in Afghanistan. *Noon–1 p.m., Federal Bldg., Liberty at Fifth St. Free. 663–1870.*

★**Reception: Art Oasis.** Opening reception for an exhibit (see Galleries) and sale of prints and works on paper by local artists, including Jim Horton, Martha Keller, and Alice Crawford. Proceeds benefit Trailblazers of Washtenaw. *5–7 p.m., Art Oasis, 307 N. Main. Free. 604–6923.*

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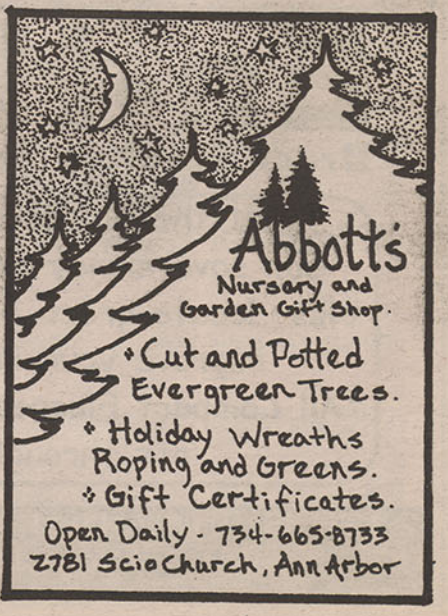

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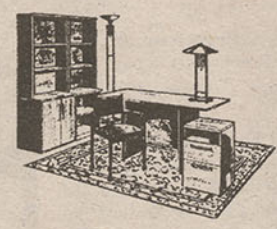

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★**The Ogre: The Underworld.** Underworld staff members demonstrate how to play this tactical miniatures tank battle board game. *6 p.m., Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**"What's Wrong with Our Memory of World War II?": U-M Michigan Union Arts and Programs Board.** Talk by U-M history lecturer Jonathan Marwil. *6 p.m., Michigan Union Kuenzel Room. Free. 763–3202.*

★**Working Writers Group.** Unpublished writers invited to bring their work for an informal group critique. All invited. *7–9 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. For information, call 481–1752.*

★**"Digestive Problems/Digestive Stress": Wholistic Doc.** Lectures by local chiropractor Darren Schmidt, followed by demonstrations of "muscle testing," an analysis of a body's energy field to determine what it needs to improve its health. *7–8:30 p.m., 112 St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from Huron River Dr.). Free. 302–7575.*

★**"Family Farming in Washtenaw County": Ann Arbor District Library/People's Food Co-op.** Panel discussion with Washtenaw County Farm Bureau director Jerry Huehl, 3rd-generation area farmer Dale Lesser, and Andy Sacks, a photographer working on a family-farm photo documentary. In conjunction with the December 16 discussion of Jane Smiley's *A Thousand Acres* on *Storylines America*, a syndicated WUOM call-in book discussion program that airs Sundays at 6 p.m. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Groupe de Francais.** All fluent French speakers invited for conversation. *7:30–9 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington. Free admission. 996–1848.*

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic,*** John de Graaf, Thomas Naylor, and David Wann's riveting study of the wretched excess of American consumerism. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 332–0207.*

★**Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** Club members discuss skiing technique and show videos depicting the classic (traditional) and skating (freestyle) techniques. Preceded by socializing (7 p.m.). *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–SKIS.*

"The Great Russian Nutcracker": Moscow Ballet. *December 11–13.* This touring company of top Russian dancers presents its acclaimed storybook treatment of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Choreographed by Tomas Vashakindze, the winner of the 2001 Balanchine-Tshubikiani Competition in Tbilisi, Georgia, this production also features costumes and sets based on Russian folk art and designed by Valentin Federov. The lead role of Masha (Clara in the familiar American version) is danced by Jana Kazantsova, winner of an Honored Artist of Russia prize. Also, local ballet dancers and students fill out various minor roles as mice, snowflakes, angels, butterflies, and party guests. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $18–$43 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

★**"A Christmas Carol": U-M Clements Library.** Dickens scholar **Bert Hornback,** a U-M English professor emeritus who has been teaching English at Bellarmine College in Kentucky, has moved back to town and tonight revives his very popular annual readings of the 19th-century novelist's beloved Christmas fable. As is his custom, Hornback performs as if he is Dickens himself, wearing Victorian costume and standing at a lectern that is a replica of Dickens's own. Hornback has performed as Dickens throughout the world, and he so closely identifies with his alter ego that some people wonder if he doesn't secretly believe he *is* Dickens. Before the reading, Hornback usually indulges his political passions with a brief address on the current state of the world—something he insists Dickens, with his lively social conscience, would do if he were alive today. *8 p.m., Clements Library, 909 South University. Free. 764–2347.*

★**Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Ellen Rowe leads this music-student group in a program of Latin-influenced jazz. Also, music by **Los Gatos,** a local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of the late mambo vibes player Cal Tjader. Both ensembles are accompanied by dances choreographed and performed by U-M dance students. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Free. 764–0583.*

★**"Beyond the Mistletoe": U-M Good News.** Concert of contemporary Christian pop, seasonal music, and traditional carols by this student a cappella ensemble. *8 p.m., Michigan Union Anderson Room. Free. 763–1107.*

Kitty Donohoe and Jan Krist: The Ark. Double bill. Donohoe is an Irish-American singer-songwriter from Detroit known for her bell-like soprano—an instrument that has been described as "rich, flexible, soaring, and haunting"—and her grittily realistic, bluesy original songs. Krist is a Royal Oak singer-songwriter known for her lean, poetic lyrics and inventive melodies. She was a semifinalist in the 1991 Kerrville New Folk Songwriting Competition, and her fans include singer-songwriter Christine Lavin, who has called Krist "one of the best new folk artists emerging in the national folk music scene." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 4 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

12 WEDNESDAY

"The Changeling": Wild Swan Theater. See 11 Tuesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

"Children's Tea & Story Time": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Kids 3–5 (accompanied by a paying adult) can sip herbal tea and munch treats while listening to nature and botany-related stories in the conservatory. Also, a botanical craft and a take-home teacup. *10–11 a.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $5. 994–6287.*

"Building Your Own Fountain of Youth": St. Joseph Mercy Health System. St. Joe's geriatrician Alan Dengiz discusses new research in longevity, techniques for slowing the aging process, and methods of staying as healthy for as long as possible. Lunch included. *11:30 a.m., Senior Health Bldg., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. $4. Preregistration required. 712–2989.*

★**"Nutcracker Ballet Preview": Liberty Borders.** Ballerinas from the **Moscow Ballet** perform a snippet of the toy workshop scene from their December 11–13 *Nutcracker* production (see listings). *2 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Two Dogmas of Empiricism in Ethics": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts.** Lecture by philosophy professor Stephen Darwall. In conjunction with his appointment as the U-M John Dewey professor. Reception follows. *4:10 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 994–6244.*

★**Holiday Potluck: Wild Ones.** All invited to join club members for a potluck (bring a dish to pass) and a slide show of personal native-landscaping projects or favorite wild places. Bring a few slides to show and talk about if you like; "Don't be shy," urges an organizer. *6:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769–6981.*

★**Ann Arbor Magic Club.** All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magickal arts. *7 p.m., Domino's Farms, Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 482–9253.*

"Discover Reiki." *December 12 & 27 (different locations).* Local reiki practitioner Robert Hughes introduces this hands-on technique for promoting mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being. *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main (Dec. 12); & 5–6:30 p.m., location TBA (Dec. 27). Donations welcome. 827–1443.*

★**"Close Listening: Sound as Art": Ann Arbor District Library/Art Pro Tem.** Stephanie Rowden discusses the sound show she curated at the U-M art school, and veteran local experimental composer Frank Pahl discusses his explorations of automatic instruments. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"A History of Christmas Books": Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** Talk by U-M Clements Library director John Dann, a collector of Christmas books. *7–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669–0451.*

★**Poetry Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tea Room.** See 5 Wednesday. Poetry readings by the **Random Synaptic Orchestra,** a local performance poetry troupe. Followed by discussion and (time permitting) open mike readings. A benefit (donations accepted) for Crazy Wisdom Tea Room manager Jerri Dodge, who is about to embark on a 2-year walk around the perimeter of the continental U.S. as a demonstration for peace. 7–9:30 p.m.

★**"Long Distance Antenna Design": Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club.** Group discussion by club members on how to design and install antennas that will pull in international shortwave broadcasts such as the BBC. All invited. *7:30–9:30 p.m., American Red Cross, 2729 Packard. Free to visitors ($20 annual dues). 930–6564.*

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. Also, socializing. *7:30 p.m., 3455 Charing Cross Rd. (off Packard just west of US-23). Free, but donations are accepted. 971–3455.*

★**Informal Singing Group: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance.** All singers—good, bad, and indifferent—invited to an evening of informal a cappella singing of folk, gospel, rounds, and old rock 'n' roll. Bring the *Rise Up Singing* songbook, if you have one, or copies of song lyrics to share. Instruments welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., call for location. Free. 769–1052.*

"The Great Russian Nutcracker": Moscow Ballet. See 11 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Breath for Your Life: The Role of Breath in Your Quality of Life": Gateway Chiropractic.** Talk by local chiropractor Diane Babalas. *8 p.m., Gateway Chiropractic, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668–6110.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts this U-M music-student ensemble in the prelude and "Liebestod" from Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde,* a violin concerto by Prokofiev, and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0583.*

John Berry: The Ark. Rare club appearance by this country-pop star, a singer with a big, commanding voice and a repertoire of alternately earnest and warmly sentimental songs about ordinary life's joys and sorrows. Shows on his annual Christmas tour feature both holiday classics and several of his biggest hits, including the 1994 #1 country single "Your Love Amazes Me," along with material from his new CD, *All the Way to There. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Drums and Tuba: Clear Channel Entertainment. Instrumental jam jazz-rock in the style of Martin, Medeski, and Wood by this Austin, Texas, band that opened for Oysterhead at the Michigan Theater in November. Opening act is **Joe Brown,** an instrumental prog-rock band from Detroit. *9:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets $8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, $10 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

13 THURSDAY

★**"Affordable Housing Breakfast": Religious Action for Affordable Housing.** All invited to a breakfast meeting for individuals and representatives from groups concerned with affordability of housing in Washtenaw County. *8 a.m., Catholic Social Services, 4925 Packard. Free. Preregistration required. 971–6177.*

★**"Music Theory and How the Ear Works": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild.** Talk by U-M music lecturer Marianne Ploger. *10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 647–4301.*

"The Changeling": Wild Swan Theater. See 11 Tuesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. All invited to take a docent-guided tour of the photographs and artifacts in this award-winning restored museum. High tech in its day, this 19th-century observatory was the sole source of accurate time for much of the Great Lakes frontier. The observatory also pinpointed the longitude of Ann Arbor and Detroit for the Civil War–era U.S. Lakes Survey and discovered 21 minor planets and a comet. Not recommended for children under age 10. *11 a.m.–2 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 East Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation. 763–2230.*

"NetWorks": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. A popular monthly program that provides local businesspeople a chance to meet and learn about one another's businesses. This month's program: TGI Direct account executive Randall Klonowski discusses **"Intelligent Direct Mail Campaigns."** Bring your business cards. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Detroit Edison Community Room, 425 S. Main. $12 (members, $7) includes light refreshments. 214–0108.*

Holiday Luncheon: American Association of University Women. Men and women with a bachelor's degree invited to lunch, followed by talks by local college women who recently received AAUW scholarships. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by socializing. *Noon, Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $15.75. 973–6287.*

★**Sarah Zettel: Ann Arbor District Library "Booked for Lunch."** This sci-fi novelist from Ypsilanti, whose works include *Playing God* and the recent *Kingdom of Cages,* reads from her work and discusses the challenges of writing science fiction. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Taped for repeat broadcast on cable channel 17. *12:10–1 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Shaun Jackson: U-M School of Art & Design.** Lecture by this industrial designer, whose "Lapdog" laptop bags, one of his ingenious "portable office" products, earned a *Business Week* IDEA award and a geek.com "Pick Award." *5 p.m., Art and Architecture Bldg. auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–1300.*

★**"20th-Century Art": U-M Museum of Art.** Docent-led tour of this exhibit. *6:30 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–UMMA.*

★**"Searching the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library.** Introduction to web search and metasearch engines and subject directories. *7 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8323.*

"Seasonal Beers": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about approximately 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★**Holiday Dinner: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club.** All invited to a lasagna dinner. Bring a side dish to pass. Participants are also asked to bring a bird-related item to be auctioned tonight and a nonperishable food donation for the community center. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. (313) 928–4270.*

★**Annual Caroling Party and Luminaria Display: Glacier Hills Retirement Center.** Some 1,000 luminarias (traditional Christmas lights) create a Christmas glow at this community carol sing-along. Cookies, cider. All welcome. *7–8 p.m., Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart Rd. Free. 663–5202.*

★**"10th Annual Light a Memory": Hospice of Washtenaw.** All invited to remember and honor a departed loved one by joining Hospice staff to relate personal stories and listen to readings and music. Hand-held lights distributed for a group lighting. Followed by dessert reception. Proceeds benefit hospice programs. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Education Center auditorium, 5305 E. Huron River Dr. Optional donation. 327–3400.*

★**Hanukkah Music Festival: Hebrew Day School.** A festive concert of Hanukkah songs in English and Hebrew, sung by Hebrew Day School students. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free. 971–4633.*

"The Great Russian Nutcracker": Moscow Ballet. See 11 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor Ski Club.** All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Followed by a **dance.** Newcomers welcome. Must be 21 or older. *8–11 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. Free. 761–3419.*

Les Arts Florissants: University Musical Society. The world's preeminent reconstructors of Baroque opera, this renowned Paris company directed by the American-born William Christie is known for lively, witty performances that showcase the lush beauty and lyricism of Baroque phrasing. Tonight: a performance of Baroque composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier's famous ***Messe de Minuit pour Noel (Christmas Midnight Mass),*** sung in Latin, and his "In Nativitatem Domini Canticum." *8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium. Tickets $35 & $40 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Alvin "Youngblood" Hart: The Ark. Hart is a highly regarded 35-year-old acoustic blues singer-songwriter from Oakland, California. A protege of

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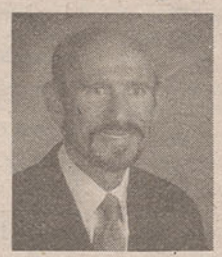

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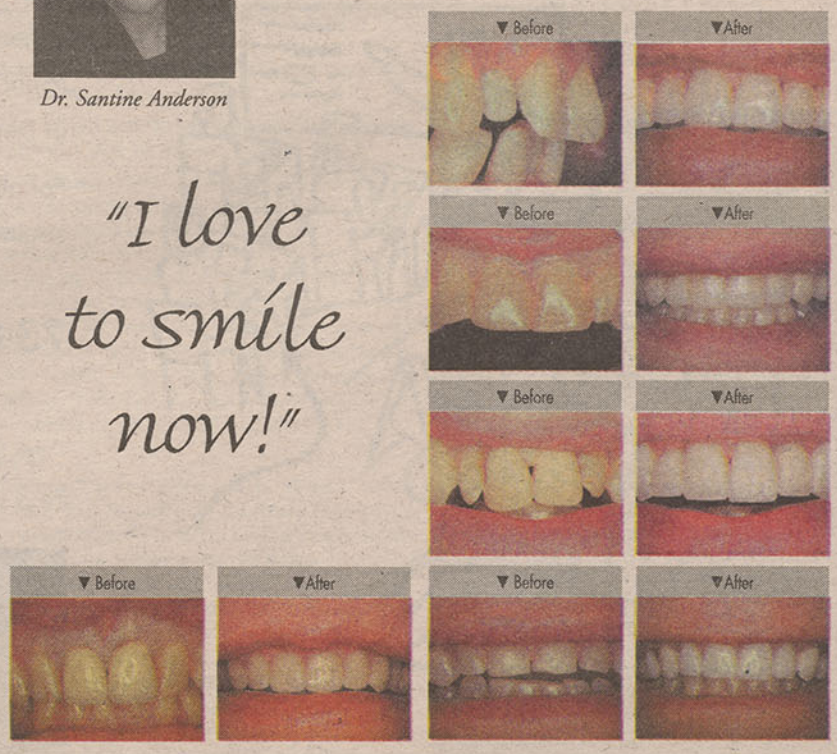

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EVENTS *continued*

Taj Mahal who cites Gatemouth Brown as his mentor, Hart has released 2 CDs on the revived OKeh label, including the musically adventurous *Territory*, which opens with a western swing tune, "Tallacatcha." His repertoire includes traditional and original country blues, along with a variety of related folk and pop forms. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Internal Affairs": Phoenix Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Flynn: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *December 13–15.* The winner of the prestigious San Francisco International Comedy Competition, this up-and-coming young comic is known for sarcastic observational humor with a slight edge. A frequent guest of Conan O'Brien and on other TV shows, he also appeared in the hit films *There's Something about Mary, Kingpin,* and *Me, Myself, and Irene.* Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

The Underworld. "Anime Night." See 6 Thursday. Tonight: volume 1 of ***Trigon,*** an adventure comedy about a bumbling bodyguard. The Underworld, 9 p.m.

14 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tots Tea Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Hands-on science activities and free play for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11:30 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $5 per child. 997–1553.*

★December Movies: Ann Arbor District Library. *December 14 & 27 (different programs).* A series of 45-minute film programs for kids ages 3 & up. Today: 4 animated shorts adapted from children's stories, ***Mouse Around, Three Little Pigs, Morris Goes to School,*** and ***The Wizard.*** *10–10:45 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; first come, first seated. 327–8301.*

"The Changeling": Wild Swan Theater. See 11 Tuesday. 10 a.m. and 12:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Scandinavian Christmas Celebration: Ann Arbor Scandinavian Club. This family-oriented party features folk singing, a Lucia train (a Swedish children's pageant), and other activities. Santa Claus is on hand. Smorgasbord with glogg (a spiced seasonal fruit-and-wine beverage). Open to anyone interested in Scandinavian culture. *6:30–9 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. $5 (children, $3). 741–0895.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. *December 14, 15, 16, & 19.* This Ann Arbor–based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players under the guidance of U.S. National coach Jeff Jackson. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules, September–March, against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18–21) and against comparable European national teams. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Rochester Institute of Technology,** a college team from Rochester, New York. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $6 (students & children, $3). 327–9251.*

★"Revisions of the Great Lakes": U-M School of Art & Design. Reception for an exhibit (see Galleries) of U-M master's candidate Kira Campbell's multimedia views of the Great Lakes. *7–9 p.m., Media Union Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 936–2082.*

★Professional Volunteer Corps. All singles 25 & older invited to help plan social outings and determine which local service projects to support with volunteer work. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing and newcomer orientation. *7:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 747–6801.*

★"Tips for Handling the Holidays": Liberty Borders/U-M Cancer Center "The Art of Survival"

plays

Guys on Ice
Fargo on ice

The pitch to a Hollywood producer would describe *Guys on Ice* as a musical *Fargo*, as *Waiting for Godot* meets *Hee Haw*. As a full-fledged midwesterner, I think of us as too colorless to characterize, let alone caricature, so the small trickle of literature that does that job successfully always delights me. I was a sucker for the sometimes smirkily buffoonish *Saturday Night Live* "Dah Bears!" routines several casts ago. The Coen brothers, in *Fargo*, laminated a darkly rural, Scandinavian pathos onto those same broad comic outlines. Fred Alley and James Kaplan's *Guys on Ice* is simpler and more earnest than *Fargo*, but it has its moments of sly, elusive depth.

In a fishing shanty on a shimmering, frozen Green Bay, Marvin (Joseph Albright) and Lloyd (Paul Hopper) drink one Leinie after another and wait for someone who never shows up. To relieve the monotony, they open their door a few times to an amiable idler named Ernie (Tom Whalen). The plot is a *lot* thinner than the ice, merely an excuse to string together a bunch of songs about how the world looks from here. All fifteen songs are full production numbers—I haven't seen such determination to fit a dance step and pantomime to every syllable since Shirley Temple teamed with Bill Robinson, and these two do it in fully padded snowmobile suits. The goofy freshness of the songs kept catching me by surprise: "Who needs church / When you're catchin' da perch!" goes the refrain of the opening number.

I admit I was never able to sit through *Hee Haw*, and the second act increasingly slides into *Hee Haw*–type sight gags, bad puns, one-liners, and shameless hustling of the audience. You've seen the best by intermission, but don't leave then—you'll miss a surprisingly poignant and lyrical song when Lloyd and Marvin describe what they'd do on "De Last Day on Earth."

In a show with so little substance outside the musical numbers, it seems wrong to keep the three-piece band (Rich Alder, Jason Alder, and Eric Nyhuis) completely out of sight backstage, without even an introduction or a curtain call. They are a large part of what keeps the show light and nimble.

Guys on Ice continues its three-month run at the Purple Rose through Saturday, December 22. —*Sonia Kovacs*

Series. Talk by a cancer social worker TBA. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of Alberto Manguel's erudite ***A History of Reading.*** Refreshments. *7–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669–0451.*

★**Family Holiday Sing: Dexter Historical Society.** All invited to join a family sing-along. Also, a visit from Santa. Seasonal refreshments. *7 p.m., Dexter Museum, 3443 Inverness at Fourth, Dexter. Free admission. 426–2519.*

★**Winter Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** *December 14–16 (different locations).* This local performing-arts organization for children and adults presents concerts of holiday and classical music showcasing SPA-AA ensembles. Tonight: Lynne Tobin and Janet Mattke lead the **Michigan Children of SCORE** (String, Choral, Orff, and Recorder Ensemble) in a wide range of holiday music from around the world. *7–8:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 995–4625.*

★**"Porter": Ann Arbor Brewers' Guild.** All invited to join an informal tasting and discuss homebrewing techniques for this brown ale that was once Britain's most popular beer. Bring 1–2 bottles per batch of your porter or of an interesting commercial porter. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free to first-timers ($15 annual dues). 665–5805.*

Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. U-M music professor emeritus Thomas Hilbish directs this highly regarded local chorus in a program highlighted by the local premiere of Alfred Schnittke's *Concerto for Voices*, a setting of medieval Armenian verses from Grigor Narekatsi's *Book of Mournful Songs*. Guest pianists Helen Polbnae and Edward Wyman accompany Brahms's intimate, lilting *Neue Liebeslieder*, and an ad hoc orchestra joins the choir for a performance of Handel's intense *Dixit Dominus*. Also, Schoenberg's difficult *Friede auf Erden (Peace on Earth). 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Tickets $10 (seniors & students, $8) in advance and at the door. 668–6815.*

Empatheater. Artistic director Sara Schreiber leads this local improv theater group in its 8th season. Empatheater invites audience members to anonymously write down their concerns and life situations, which become a springboard for the actors' improvisations. Theatergoers watch their stories come alive. This month's topic: **"I Give, and I Give, and I Give."** *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15 & $20 (students and seniors $10) in advance or at the door. 913–9733.*

"The Wind in the Willows": Young Actors Guild. Sue Roe directs over 50 local young actors in Douglas Post's musical adaptation of the poignant, unforgettable Kenneth Grahame classic about the lives of animals inhabiting a riverbank and nearby forest. When a warmhearted friendship between Rat and Mole is tested by the wily, arrogant Toad, circumstances lead to a daring battle to reclaim Toad Hall from weasels, ferrets, and stoats. *7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets $8 (children 11 and younger, $6) in advance and at the door. 913–9750.*

"Amahl and the Night Visitors": First Presbyterian Church. *December 14 & 15.* Soprano Julia Broxholm, a former Ann Arborite who recently moved to North Carolina to take a position as voice professor at Brevard College, returns to town to star in Gian Carlo Menotti's opera about a crippled boy and his mother who are visited by the three kings following the Christmas star. Alex Pierson and Ken Kanzawa are double cast as Amahl, and the kings are played by U-M voice professor George Shirley, Philip Pierson, and Gary Leckrone. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. $8 (youths & seniors, $5; family, $20) in advance and at the door. 662–4466.*

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. *December 14–16.* Wendy Du Bois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet, based on an E. T. A. Hoffmann story, about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. Tonight's proceeds benefit a charity TBA. *7:30 p.m., Chelsea High School, 500 Washington, Chelsea. Tickets (price TBA) available in advance at the Dancer's Boutique and Chelsea Pharmacy, at 475–3070, or at the door. 475–3070.*

"Hello, Dolly": Young People's Theater. *December 14, 15, & 20–22.* Bryan Hissong directs local young actors in Jerry Herman's long-running musical about a charismatic, opportunistic woman out to make a quick buck. Complications arise when she tries to play matchmaker to the wealthy Horace Vandergelder. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 408 W. Washington. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $7) in advance and at the door. 971–7207.*

Vox: Music at St. Andrew's. This new local a cappella early-music ensemble, founded and directed by Whitnie Crown Wolverton, presents **"The Great Mystery: An Early Music Christmas,"** a program of chant for the Christmas season, medieval carols, and Renaissance polyphony by Byrd, Victoria, Josquin, and others. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Donation. 944–0243.*

Bryan Pardo: Canterbury House. This local reedman performs a grab-bag concert of skronk jazz, klezmer, electro-acoustic musings, and more, with a variety of collaborators TBA. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Hunger Coalition. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $5 donation (students, $3). 764–3162.*

Carrie Newcomer: The Ark. This acclaimed young singer-songwriter from northern Indiana is a dynamic performer whose songs explore the nourishments of the spirit in everyday life with a gritty realism and soft-spoken charm. A stylish singer with a dark, smoky alto, she uses a honky-tonk drawl and a bluesy purr to give her songs a seasoned toughness and a seductive sensuality. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Amahl and the Night Visitors" Arbor Opera Theater.** See 8 Saturday. *8 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free; donation appreciated. 998–0860.*

"Internal Affairs": Phoenix Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Flynn: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Bobby Broom: Bird of Paradise. *December 14 & 15.* An acclaimed Chicago-based jazz-funk guitarist whose playing is known for its lyric grace and hard-grooving horn-like inventiveness, Broom got his start playing in Sonny Rollins's band while still in his teens, and he has since toured with everyone from Miles Davis and Art Blakey to Dr. John. His current trio includes drummer Dana Hall and bassist Dennis Carroll. *9 & 11 p.m., Bird of Paradise, 306 S. Main. Tickets $15 (students with ID, $10) in advance and at the door. 662–8310 (after 7 p.m.).*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Focus" (Neal Slavin, 2001). *December 14–18.* When anti-Semites in a middle-class WW II–era neighborhood mistakenly suspect a wimpy corporate drone of being a Jew, he loses his job and becomes a target of bigotry. Based on the 1945 Arthur Miller novel. Laura Dern, William H. Macy, Meat Loaf Aday. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"A Christmas Carol"** (Edwin Marin, 1938). *December 14–16.* Dickens's famous tale of Scrooge. FREE. 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 5 p.m.

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15 SATURDAY

"Cookie Walk VIII": First United Methodist Church. Amble through a bazaar of hundreds of toothsome homemade cookies, and select your own or prepackaged assortments. All proceeds benefit local and international charities. *9 a.m.–noon, First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. 668–6829.*

★**Christmas Celebration: AGLOW International.** All invited to join members for caroling and a cookie exchange (call for details). AGLOW is a network of Christian women who meet for prayer and community outreach. Preceded at 9:15 a.m. by a light breakfast. *9:30–11:30 a.m., Courthouse Square Apts., 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–4246.*

"Stars of Winter"/"Season of Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday beginning December 15, and special holiday showings December 27–29. Stars of Winter* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both weekend days and December 27 & 28) is an audiovisual exploration of the stars and planets currently visible in the sky, narrated by the late U-M law professor (and longtime local actor) Bev Pooley. *Season of Light* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays only and 2:30 p.m. both weekend days and December 27 & 28) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3 (seniors & children 12 & under, $2). 764–0478.*

★**1st Annual Christmas Party: Aunt Agatha's.** Local writer **Deborah Morgan** signs copies of her debut novel *Death Is a Cabaret,* a mystery about antiques set in the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Also, cookies and punch, sale of crafts, and some surprises. *1–3 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**ArtVentures: Arborland Borders.** Kids and their parents invited to make international crafts. *2 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Birds of Prey": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Slide-illustrated talk by Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck about the characteristics and environmental role of different types of birds of prey. *2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426–8211.*

★**Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate the rebirth of 2 ancient parents of the cosmos, primal mother Danu and sun god and "divine spark" Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck, raffle, and child care. *2–5 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free. 697–2514.*

★**Winter Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** See 14 Friday. Today: Lynne Tobin leads the **Debut String Orchestra,** an ensemble of musicians ages 6–10, and the **Junior String Orchestra,** an ensemble of musicians ages 8–13. Program: works by Handel and Mozart and a selection of folk tunes from around the world. In today's 2nd concert, Tobin leads the **Sterling String Orchestra,** an ensemble of young musicians ages 9–12, and E. Daniel Long leads the **Youth Symphony Orchestra,** an ensemble of musicians ages 13–18. Program: works by Respighi, Faure, Beethoven, Handel, and others. *2 & 4 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 995–4625.*

"The Changeling": Wild Swan Theater. See 11 Tuesday. 2 p.m.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 14 Friday. Today: at 3 p.m., **Team USA Under-17 vs. Soo** (Sault Ste. Marie) of the North American Hockey League, and at 7 p.m., **Team USA Under-18 vs. Rochester Institute of Technology,** a college team from Rochester, New York. 3 & 7 p.m.

"A Prairie Home Companion": U-M Office of Major Events. Live broadcast of this beloved radio variety show hosted by writer, raconteur, and occasional singer **Garrison Keillor.** Heard by millions on public radio stations nationwide, *A Prairie Home Companion* began in 1974 as an old-fashioned radio smorgasbord of music, humor, and minidrama, complete with spoof advertisements from sponsors such as Powdermilk Biscuits and Bertha's Kitty Boutique. The weekly "news from Lake Wobegon" features Keillor's tales of life in a tiny Minnesota town based on his boyhood home. Keillor's observations on the human condition give the show its unique appeal, a mix of gentle ribbings of universal foibles, rueful observations from the perspective of midlife, and

dark satires of everything from politics to the enduring conflicts between men and women. Tonight's guest performers include champion local teen fiddler and U.S. National Scottish Fiddle champion **Jeremy Kittel,** guitarist **Jesse Mason,** the husband-and-wife acoustic folk duo **Robin and Linda Williams,** and bluegrass vocalist **Mollie O'Brien.** Patron tickets ($125) include preferential seating and admission to a post-show reception with Keillor. *5:45 p.m. sharp, Hill Auditorium. Sold out.*

★**Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics.** The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 4th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2001–2002 season with an intrasquad meet. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

★**Winter Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** See 14 Friday. Today: Brian DiBlassio, Paul Finkbeiner, Jack Wagner, and David Stearns lead **jazz ensembles** in a showcase of straight-ahead, Latin, and other jazz styles. *7–9 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free. 995–4625.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Harvard. *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. *December 15 & 16 (different locations).* Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 50 boys in its 15th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city" and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day" and includes English composer Bob Chilcott's Christmas song "This Joy." The featured piece, Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols,* is accompanied by 16-year-old harp virtuoso Allegra Lilly. Also, 2 Christmas anthems, Allan Bullard's "Angel Alleluias" and Martin Shaw's arrangement of "Joys Seven," and traditional Christmas carols. The boy singers are supplemented by several professional men singers, who provide the lower choral parts, and the choir is accompanied on St. Andrew's 33-rank Reuter organ by National Shrine of the Little Flower (Royal Oak) organist and choirmaster Charles Kennedy. The Boychoir's Preparatory Choir performs W. H. Parry's "To Bethlehem" and Eric Gritton's "Welcome, Yule." The program concludes with a sing-along of traditional carols. The Boychoir has a new Christmas CD. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. *3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10; youths 17 & under, $5; families, $40) in advance and at the door. 663–5377.*

"A Gift for Christmas": Measure for Measure. EMU music professor Leonard Riccinto directs this lively 85-member local men's chorus, whose Christmas repertoire ranges from Bruckner's "Ave Maria" and Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium" to Regney and Shayne's "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and Clay Warnick's arrangement of "Winter Wonderland." Proceeds benefit Hope Clinic. *7:30 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 517 Elizabeth St. $12 (students & seniors, $10) in advance and (if available) at the door. 484–2989.*

"Amahl and the Night Visitors": First Presbyterian Church. See 14 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 14 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America.** The program includes a performance of Ann Arborite Katherine Katz's short Nativity drama *A Christmas Imagination,* lighting of and singing to the Christmas tree, and socializing. Refreshments. Children must be accompanied by an adult; not suitable for children under 6. *7:45 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego & the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 662–6398.*

Third Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to live music by the Pittsfield Open Band. All dances taught; first-timers welcome. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, all musicians invited to a free jam (3–6 p.m.). *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $8. 426–0241, 665–8863.*

Colin Meek: Canterbury House. This local cellist performs contemporary cello duets with a musician TBA. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Hunger Coalition. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $5 donation (students, $3). 764–3162.*

Joel Mabus: The Ark. This MSU grad is regarded by his peers as one of the hottest pickers on the folk circuit. A virtuoso on guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, Mabus is also an excellent songwriter, known for his trenchant humor and eclectic "folkabilly" style. "Mabus is everything a modern string player should be—versatile, innovative, tasty, and funny," says Martin Keller of the *Twin Cities Reader.* His 1997 CD *Western Passage* is an all-instrumental suite for solo guitar that blends 19th-century American folk melodies with original tunes. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Hello, Dolly": Young People's Theater. See 14 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

★**"Amahl and the Night Visitors": Arbor Opera Theater.** See 8 Saturday. *8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free; donation appreciated. 998–0860.*

"Internal Affairs": Phoenix Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Jackie Flynn: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor Ballroom Dance Club. All invited to join club members for ballroom dancing to recorded music. Partner recommended. Refreshments. *8:30–11 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $7. 665–6090, 665–3565.*

Bobby Broom: Bird of Paradise. See 14 Friday. 9 & 11 p.m.

"A Night Out in Ann Arbor with Garrison Keillor": The Ark. The star of *A Prairie Home Companion* (see listing above) hosts an evening of readings and performances by local poets, broadcast live on participating NPR stations. Poets interested in reading must register at 761–1800, ext. 23, or a2ark @hotmail.org. 25 poets will be selected randomly from the applicants, and during the show, Keillor will invite many of the 25 poets in attendance to the stage. *11 p.m.–12:30 a.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 (students with ID, $10) in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Focus" (Neal Slavin, 2001). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"A Christmas Carol"** (Edwin Marin, 1938). See 14 Friday. Mich., 3 p.m.

16 SUNDAY

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited to join a discussion of poet Alan Kaufman's memoir ***Jew Boy,*** a coming-of-age tale about growing up in the Bronx as the son of a traumatized Holocaust survivor. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

"Santa on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Santa in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. *1–3 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4.25 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $3.50). Skate rentals available ($2). 761–7240.*

★**Winter Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** See 14 Friday. Today: hourly recitals by chamber ensembles, jazz combos, and solo instrumental and vocal musicians. *1–4 p.m., Concordia College Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 995–4625.*

37th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous Christmas oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by First Methodist Church chancel choir director Bob Pratt, who was for many years the choral director at Pioneer High. Scores are provided, or participants may bring their own. (The "Prout" edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. *1:15 p.m. (orchestra warm-up), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665–5964.*

★**"Feed the Poets": Del Rio.** Open mike poetry readings interspersed with informal readings by **The Tribe,** a group of young local poets. *1:30–4:30 p.m., Del Rio, 122 W. Washington. Free. 761–2530.*

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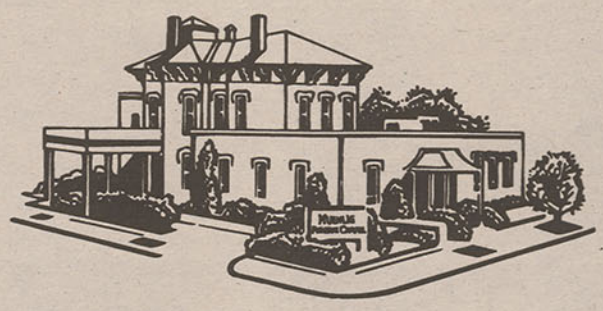

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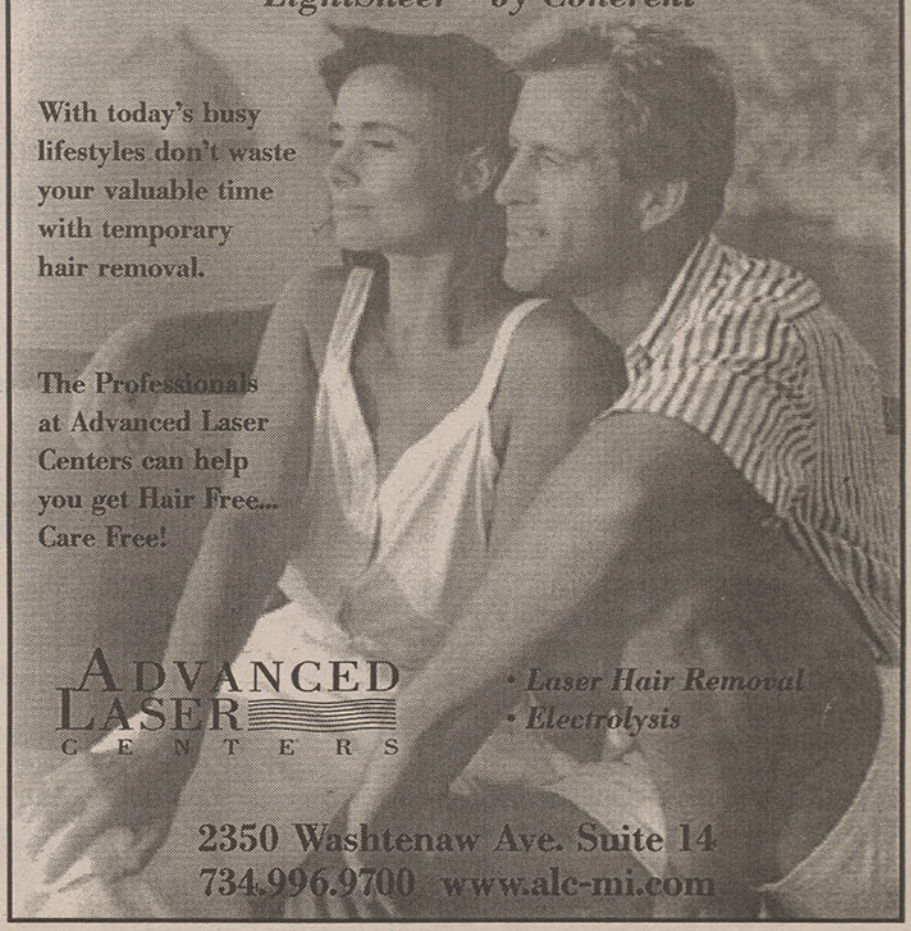

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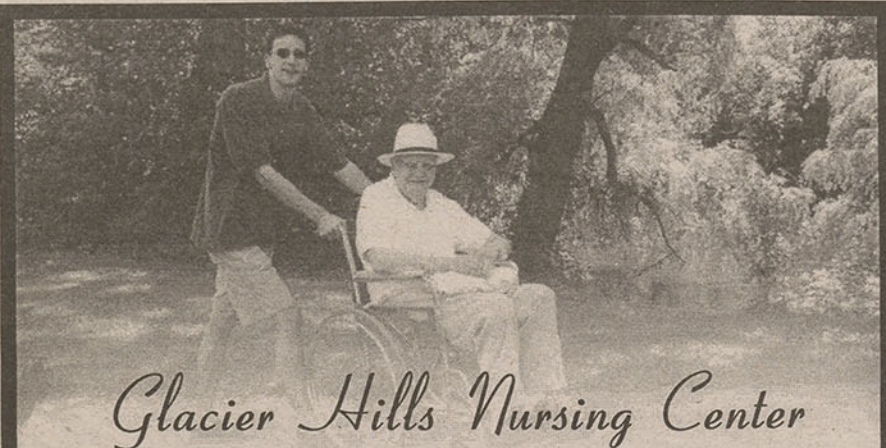

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EVENTS *continued*

★**Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.** All invited for socializing and small-group discussions. *2–5 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division at Catherine. Free. 741–0659.*

Third Sunday Family Dance Series: Cobblestone Country Dancers. Square and contra dancing to live music by the string band Sandy River Belle, with popular local callers David Park Williams, John Freeman, and Robin Warner. Geared toward families and children. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. *2–4:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm Barn, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $6 (families, $10). 975–9059, 994–2928.*

★**Garrison Keillor: Liberty Borders.** Rare area appearance by this public radio supernova whose beloved, folksy, old-style, 27-year-old radio show *A Prairie Home Companion* (see 15 Saturday listing) features absorbing tales of laconic Lutherans from Lake Wobegon that have helped make "lutefisk" a household word. Keillor reads from his semiautobiographical memoir ***Lake Wobegon Summer 1956,*** a sequel to *Wobegon Boy* that details the hilarious yet poignant misadventures of a nerdy teen with ambitions to become a writer who is plagued by lubricious thoughts. Also, signing. *2 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Jeanne Mackey, Lisa Bashert, and Amy Diebaren: Native Ways.** Concert by this self-described "eco-feminist 'tree-o'" of singer-songwriter and guitarist Mackey and vocalists Bashert and Diebaren, whose songs celebrate the earth, women's power, and the season. *2 p.m., Native Ways Gallery, 209 N. Main. Free. 662–2099.*

"Internal Affairs": Phoenix Productions. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Changeling": Wild Swan Theater. See 11 Tuesday. 2 & 4 p.m.

★**Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Women's Gymnastics.** The U-M women's gymnastics team, a perennial Big 10 champion that finished 3rd in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2001–2002 season with an intrasquad meet. *2 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 14 Friday. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Soo** (Sault Ste. Marie) of the North American Hockey League. 3 p.m.

★**Curator's Talk: U-M Museum of Art.** Modern and contemporary art curator Sean Ulmer discusses newly installed works in the 20th-century gallery. *3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–UMMA.*

★**"American Classical Song of Barber, Copland, and Rorem": Ann Arbor District Library/University Musical Society.** Talk, with recorded illustrations, by Ann Arbor District Library music specialist Richard LeSueur. *3–4:15 p.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560, 615–6590.*

★**Choir Concert: Amistad Church.** All invited to this concert of contemporary and traditional African American spirituals and gospel music. Followed by reception. *5 p.m., Amistad Church, 2730 Carpenter Rd. Free; donations requested. 971–7626.*

★**"Experience the Journey to Bethlehem": First Baptist Church (Ypsilanti).** *December 16–18.* A **"living Nativity"** pageant with sing-along caroling, live animals, and dramatizations of the Christmas story by characters in costume. Refreshments. *6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m., First Baptist Church, 1110 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Free. 482–7380.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 15 Saturday. *7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 128 Park St., Chelsea.*

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 14 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Focus" (Neal Slavin, 2001). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"A Christmas Carol"** (Edwin Marin, 1938). See 14 Friday. Mich., 3 p.m.

17 MONDAY

★**Embroiderers' Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 426–3903.*

★**"Transformation Through Chiropractic Care Using Bio-Geometric Integration": Gateway Chiropractic.** Talk by local chiropractor Stephen McLean. *8 p.m., Gateway Chiropractic, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668–6110.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Focus" (Neal Slavin, 2001). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

18 TUESDAY

★**"Ann Arbor Women Artists": U-M Taubman Medical Center.** Opening reception for this exhibit (see Galleries) of works in various media by local women artists. *5:30–7 p.m., Taubman Medical Center lobby. Free. 663–2825.*

★**Cults Across America: The Underworld.** Underworld staff members demonstrate how to play this humorous board game, a competition to become the most popular cult in America. *6 p.m., The Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**Transgender Discussion Group.** All invited to discuss books, movies, videos, and current events related to the transgender community. *7–8:30 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 Fourth Ave. Free. 434–0953.*

Women's Circle: Essence Point. All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Also, bring divination tools, if you like. *7 p.m., Genesis Foundation (Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church), 2309 Packard. $2. 741–0478.*

★**"Great Nature Trips of 2001": Sierra Club.** Short slide-illustrated talks by club members. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 480–7751.*

"The Dog Slam": Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Eric Daniel hosts this recently added midmonth affair for those for whom the long-standing 1st Tuesday (see 6 Tuesday listing) is not enough. It features open mike sessions and a variety of gimmicky slams, including theme slams, multiple-voice slams, stage prop slams, wrestling hold slams, and the like. "So shed your restraint, collect those enscribbled bar napkins from your blazer pockets, and grace our stage with some poetry (or whatever loopy folderol you would like to fob off as such)," organizers urge. *8–11 p.m., Heidelberg Rathskeller, 215 N. Main. $4. For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

"The Virtuous Burglar": Community High Theater Ensemble. *December 18–20.* Malcolm Tulip directs CHS students in this early 1-act farce by the Nobel Prize–winning Italian playwright Dario Fo. A burglar breaks into an apartment, where, while talking on the phone to his wife, he soon finds himself trapped in a maze of romantic confusion as, one by one, 3 philandering couples—each cheating on the others—arrive on the scene. Cast: James Freeland, Claire Siebers. Jamie Leaf, Jim Burling, Jeff Basham, and Kent Klausner. *8 p.m., Community High School Craft Theater, 401 N. Division. (Parking available in the lot behind the school, N. Fifth Ave. at Detroit St.) $7 (students, $5) at the door only. 994–2021.*

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 4 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Focus" (Neal Slavin, 2001). See 14 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

19 WEDNESDAY

★**"Holiday Potluck": Northeast Senior Center.** All seniors invited to enjoy a potluck (bring a dish to pass). *Noon–2 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free ($5 if you don't bring a dish). 502–4760.*

★**"Going to Sources: Old Books about Ann Arbor": Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** Talk by Ann Arbor's longtime unofficial city historian Wystan Stevens. *7–8:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669–0451.*

★**National Homeschool Band at Clonlara: Kerrytown Concert House.** Debut concert by this ensemble of local homeschool students, whose concert of holiday music features a set of carols performed by a jazz sextet. *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Scandinavian Couples Dancing: Multicultural Folk Arts Center. Traditional turning couples dances, mainly from Sweden and Norway, including the hambo, schottis, Boda polska, and Telespringar. With live music by Rumpetroll, a local band led by fiddler Bruce Sagan. All dances taught by Suzanne Schluederberg and John Lesko. No partner necessary. Hard-soled shoes strongly recommended. All invited.

8–10:30 p.m., Gretchen's House Learning Center gym, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. $5. 994–9307.

"The Virtuous Burglar": Community High Theater Ensemble. See 18 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). *December 19–31.* First in a planned trilogy of movies based on J. R. R. Tolkien's classic fantasy novels. When the young hobbit Frodo is entrusted with a powerful ring, he must risk a dangerous journey to destroy it. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

20 THURSDAY

★**"Holidays Around the World": International Neighbors.** Display and demonstration of holiday traditions and crafts from various cultures. All area women invited. International Neighbors is a 43-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *9:30–11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 302–1245.*

New Enterprise Forum. Talks on entrepreneurial issues by guest speakers, showcase presentations by emerging companies, and an open forum in which entrepreneurs can introduce themselves and solicit help for their business needs. This month's program TBA. All invited. *5 p.m. (registration), 5:30 p.m. (meeting), location TBA. $15 (members, free). 214–0104.*

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children and adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence (off Packard). Free. 434–5152.*

★**3rd Thursday Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss a book TBA. *7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**"Drummunity": People's Food Co-op.** PFC staff member Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a family-oriented drum circle to celebrate the winter solstice. Kids welcome. Instruments provided, or bring your own. *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★**"Finding, Organizing, and Enjoying Sailing Trips in Other Countries—One Member's Experience in Australia": U-M Sailing Club.** Talk by club member Paul Johnson. *7:45 p.m., 120 Dennison Bldg., 501 East University. Free. 426–4299.*

"Hello, Dolly": Young People's Theater. See 14 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Virtuous Burglar": Community High Theater Ensemble. See 18 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Monica Carter: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *December 20–22.* Local debut of this Chicago comic known for her caustic charm and sharp-witted, offbeat take on everyday life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 (Thurs.) & $8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **The Underworld. "Anime Night."** See 6 Thursday. Tonight: volume 8 of *Escaflowne*, a sci-fi action-romance fantasy. The Underworld, 9 p.m.

21 FRIDAY

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Oakland. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**"Temptation": Gallery 212.** Opening reception for this juried exhibit (see Galleries) of works by local and guest artists. *7–9 p.m., 207 W. Liberty. Free. 665–8224.*

"17th Annual Nutcracker Ballet": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. *December 21–23.* Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers from children to adults appear in the production. Principal dancers are Megan Edwards, Lee Oaklander, Soo-ah Kim, and Michael Woodbury-Means. With live musical accompaniment by the **Michigan Sinfonietta,** conducted by Leo Najar. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $20 (seniors & students $17; children 12 and under, $12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Hello, Dolly": Young People's Theater. See 14 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Monica Carter: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Cajun/Zydeco Dance Party. Dancing to music by a band TBA. Preceded at 7 p.m. by free lessons. Bring a holiday treat to share. No smoking, no alcohol, and no perfume or cologne permitted. *8:30–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Cost TBA. 213–5209.*

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never married parents invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s–90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $7 (PWP members, $5). 973–1933.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Holiday Inn"** (Mark Sandrich, 1942). *December 21–23.* Snappy, light musical about an inn open only on holidays. Irving Berlin score. Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire. FREE. 668–8480. Michigan Theater, 5 p.m.

22 SATURDAY

55th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into eight regions that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small ($5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird*. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at a WAS member's home this evening. *6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Mike Kielb at 995–4357 or Rob French at 994–8418. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or 665–7427.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. EMU. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $20. 764–0247.*

Gender-Free Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Rainbow Contra Dancers. Traditional American folk dancing for people of all orientations. There are 2 distinct roles in contra dancing, one traditionally male and one female. In gender-free contra dancing, dancers take whichever position they like and with any partner they like. Joseph Pimentel calls to live music by Nutshell. No partner necessary. All dances taught; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Followed by a potluck (5 p.m.; bring a dish to pass). *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6 (AACT-MAD members & students, $5). 434–0953.*

"Karaoke on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to show off their singing talents to the skating audience. Awards to best talent and audience favorites. *8–9:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4.25 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $3.50). Skate rentals available ($2). 761–7240.*

"Hello, Dolly": Young People's Theater. See 14 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"The Nutcracker Ballet": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 21 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Guys on Ice": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Monica Carter: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

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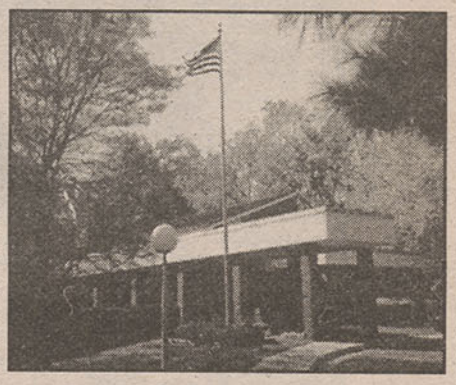

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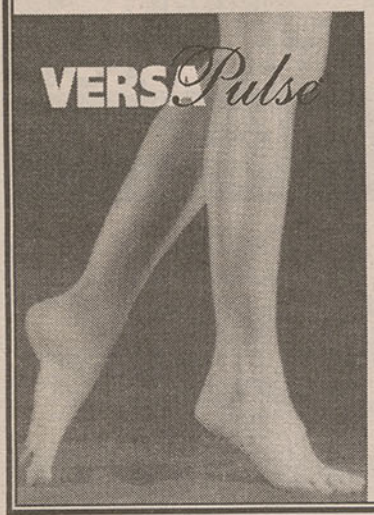

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WHEN YOUR ANGER IS NOT JUST ANGER

More and more people are becoming aware of their anger. Sometimes this is experienced as a terrible burden. Sometimes it is experienced as energizing. You might hear someone say, "I am really angry." Another might say, "I am absolutely enraged." What is the difference? What difference does it make to know the difference?

Anger is clear and energizing. It is an emotional response to an immediate situation. It motivates the angry person to take action, and leads to some resolution. In contrast, rage is an angry response to a past frustration which is restimulated in the present situation. Rage leads to the same old arguments. The date of the argument changes, but the content does not, nor does the behavior of the involved parties.

For example, you might have feelings about always being the one to clean the house, repair the car, or plan vacations. The angry person will be able to talk about the situation in such a way as to promote some change in the arrangements. The enraged person, on the other hand, will get so caught up in the rage as to become a prisoner of the feelings, unable to act on his or her own behalf.

If you find yourself being angry a lot, then you are not just angry, you are also enraged. Rage is not helpful. It interferes with productive loving, playing, and working. Resolving your rage and getting access to your anger is both liberating and empowering.

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EVENTS *continued*

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Holiday Inn"** (Mark Sandrich, 1942). See 21 Friday. Mich., 3 p.m.

23 SUNDAY

"The Nutcracker Ballet": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 21 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Stop Kiss": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Holiday Inn"** (Mark Sandrich, 1942). See 21 Friday. Mich., 3 p.m.

24 MONDAY (Christmas Eve)

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks Department. *December 24 & 31.* Skating to music by a DJ, for adults (11 a.m.–1 p.m.) & youths (1:15–5 p.m.). *11 a.m.–5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4.25 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $3.50). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 761–7240.*

★**"Lessons and Carols": First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of Scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's Chancel Choir and Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. *5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

25 TUESDAY (Christmas)

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **Temple Beth Emeth. "The Wizard of Oz"** (Victor Fleming, 1939). All invited to come dressed as your favorite Oz character for a rousing **sing-along** screening of this fantasy classic. Lyrics provided. Bagels, door prizes. Tickets $4 in advance, $5 at the door. 665–4744. Michigan Theater, 10:30 a.m.

26 WEDNESDAY

Holiday Break Science Programs: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *December 26–30.* Fun science activities for kids. Today: kids can meet **live bats** and learn about them from Organization for Bat Conservation members. Also this week: a **live animal** program from Washtenaw County's Species Survival Center (December 27, 1–3 p.m.), bubble fun with the popular **Bubble Man** Ron Loyd (December 28, noon & 2 p.m.), a chance to pet and learn about **live snakes and amphibians** from local herpetologist Brian Cressman (December 29, 1 & 2 p.m.), and a **family concert** by local singer-guitarist TBA (December 30). *12:30–2:30 p.m. (unless otherwise indicated), Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron. $7 (students & seniors, $5) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

27 THURSDAY

★**December Movies: Ann Arbor District Library.** See 14 Friday. Today: 4 animated shorts adapted from children's stories, ***All the Colors of the Earth, Brave Irene, Owl Moon,*** and ***Rumpelstiltskin.*** *10–10:45 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; first come, first seated. 327–8301.*

Women with Wings West. All women ages 8 & older invited to join a chanting circle. Includes traditional and contemporary chants from a variety of spiritual traditions. *7–8:30 p.m., 1107 Pearl, Ypsilanti. $3 donation. 483–6420, 482–0553.*

★**Coffee Hour: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join local neopagans for coffee and chat. *7–9 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 697–2514*

Kevin McPeek: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *December 27–29.* Manic, wisecracking topical and observational humor by this New York City–based monologist and song parodist who likes to spar with his audience. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 (Thurs.) & $8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **The Underworld. "Anime Night."** See 6 Thursday. Tonight: volume 2 of ***Trigon,*** an adventure comedy about a bumbling bodyguard. The Underworld, 9 p.m.

28 FRIDAY

Psychic Fair: Psychic Visions Network. Area psychics offer readings using tarot, astrology, numerology, crystals, and other methods. Fees vary but are usually around $30 for a 30-minute (or longer) session. *6 p.m.–midnight, Comfort Inn, 2455 Carpenter Rd. $5 admission. 320–7704.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Illinois. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

"Forecasts for 2002": Astrology Study Group of Washtenaw County. Internationally acclaimed astrologer **Raymond Merriman** discusses the political, psychological, and economic trends of 2002, based on his analysis of "cycles and geocosmic forces." *8 p.m., Holiday Inn North Campus, 3600 Plymouth Rd. Tickets $15 in advance, $20 at the door only. 434–4555.*

4th Friday Fling Advanced Contra Dance. Fast-paced, occasionally complex dances for experienced contra dancers. Minimal walk-throughs. Carol Ormand calls to live music by the Contrapreneurs. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $10. 665–8863.*

Kevin McPeek: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

29 SATURDAY

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. *December 29 & 30.* 2 evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance highlighted by Boston College Irish music program director **Seamus Connolly,** a 10-time all-Ireland fiddle champion who is accompanied by California pianist **Barbara McDonald Hogue.** The line-up also includes a variety of Irish-American musicians from throughout southeastern Michigan, as well as dancers from *Riverdance* and the O'Hare dance schools. Also, afternoon fiddle and piano workshops (for information, call 313–537–3489). *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Kevin McPeek: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

30 SUNDAY

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. See 29 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The Wizard of Oz" (Victor Fleming, 1939). Fantasy classic. Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, time TBA. **"Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring"** (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

31 MONDAY (New Year's Eve)

10th Annual "New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. The fest usually draws about 2,500 visitors and features more than 2 dozen area favorites performing around Depot Town in downtown Ypsilanti.

At Riverside Arts Center: veteran Detroit folkie **Neil Woodward** (7, 9, & 11 p.m.), comedian **O. J.**

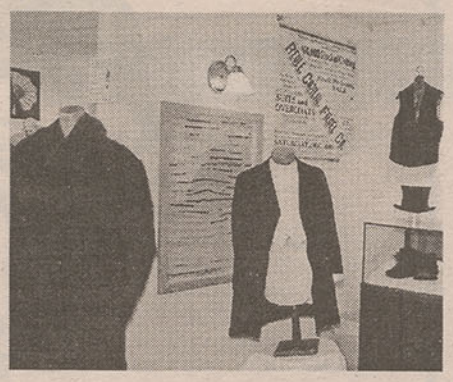
Christmas Shopping circa 1900

The Museum on Main reveals the dawn of holiday hype

"BUY NOW," bellows an enormous Christmas banner that hung three generations ago outside the vanished Mack & Company department store on Main, now on display at the Museum on Main Street. Although the turn of the last century is often sentimentally portrayed as a quaint, purer time uncorrupted by crass commercialism, local artifacts on display portray the dawn of holiday hype.

A period "Christmas merchandise" ad for Eberbach Pharmacy illustrates how merchants were a little clueless, by modern standards, about Christmas marketing. Less-than-thrilling gift ideas include hot water bottles, flashlights, and thermometers. But one hint of contemporary Christmas fever and educational-toy chic emerges in the ad's command, "You must give your boy an Electric Motor. Boys are always interested in the mysteries of electricity, and a motor is an instructive toy."

Children's toys on display feature four elaborate dollhouses, the largest sprawling over a large table and so minutely detailed



that one embroidery hoop on a chair, with microscopic embroidery, is smaller than a dime. Children's books include *Tip Toe Days,* an 1886 edition of *Small Birds,* and *Oh! So Pretty.* Next to ivory dominoes and chess and checkers sets, the cover of a game called History up to Date depicts a platoon of Civil War Union artillerymen. A nearby Schumacher Hardware ad gives an exhaustive list of "Fascinating Gifts for Children," including, among many other toys, "velocipedes, war games, shooting galleries, ring the pin, Mysto-Magic, Foot Balls, Tank Banks, sewing sets, doll cabs, toddle horses, rocking horses, automobiles, and horses and carts."

One standout adult item is a deluxe black silk parasol dripping in lace and festooned with a rich tassel. It's near a case of jewelry that includes an example of the human hair art popular in Victorian times, an elegant choker made of tatted black hair. Next to it is a lady's locket fashioned as a four-page gold book, smaller than a postage stamp and meant to hold eight photos, perhaps of competing suitors. Gentlemen's items include a spring-loaded collapsible opera hat and a cozy raccoon foot warmer resembling a giant slipper in which to tuck both feet, beneath the raccoon's intact head with glaring glass eyes.

One case of 1880s Christmas cards sums up the shift from Victorian sentimentalism to recognizable modern Christmas tradition. Only four of the seventeen cards on display show familiar religious or winter scenes. The rest sport baroque, out-of-season sprays of lilacs, roses, lilies of the valley, and even hollyhocks. One depicts a horseshoe entwined with roses, the Christmas symbolism of which is unclear. Many are lavishly edged with burgundy, lemon, aquamarine, white, ivory, or red silk fringe, making them lovely enough to be a gift in themselves. The exhibit continues through January 6.

—Laura Bien

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center. *Works by Michigan Artists* (December 6–January 7). 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library. *Scenes of Ann Arbor; Festival of Light* (December 3–28). 327–4510.

Art Oasis. *Contemporary Artists of Ann Arbor.* (December 12–January 12). See 11 Sunday. 604–6923.

Dave's Photo Emporium. *Quiescent Photon* (December 16–January 12). 827–0080.

EMU Ford Gallery. *Graduate Thesis Exhibit by Jill Henry* (December 10–14). *Graduate Thesis Exhibit by John Lonsway* (December 17–21). 487–1268.

Gallery 212. *Temptation* (December 21–January 12). See 21 Friday. 665–8224.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals). *Photography by the Ann Arbor Camera Club; Ceramic Art Tiles by Motawi Tile Works; Paintings by Ann Arbor Women Artists; Dolls by the Doll Artisan Guild of Michigan; Pastels by Al Harris Jr.; Oil Paintings by Richard E. Finger; Pewabic Pottery from the U-M Museum of Art; Watercolors by William Lewis* (December 17–February 14). 936–ARTS.

John Shultz Photography. *Oil Paintings by John Shultz* (December 1–31). See 1 Saturday. 665–5988.

Michigan Guild. *Self-Altering Mechanical Forms with Circulatory Systems* (December 5–21). See 7 Friday. 662–3382.

Michigan Union. *Works by Kristina Brooks* (December 3–14). 763–5750.

Museum on Main Street. *Christmas Shopping circa 1900* (through January 6). See review, above. 662–9092.

Pierre Paul Gallery. *Annual Group Show* (December 1–January 26). 975–1053.

U-M Bentley Historical Library. *Getting around Detroit: Detroit's Streets from the Woodward Plan to Freeways* (through December 21). 764–3482.

U-M Media Union. *Emotional Harvest* (through December 10). See 9 Sunday. *Industrial Design Student Trade Fair.* See 11 Tuesday. *Revisions of the Great Lakes* (December 14–January 7). See 14 Friday. 647–5275.

U-M Michigan League. *Colored Pencil Images by Jamie Ewen* (December 1–21). 763–4652.

U-M Museum of Art. *People and Places: The Baker Gift of Twentieth-Century Photography* (December 8–February 10). 764–0395.

U-M Pierpont Commons. *Quilts from the Names Project Memorial Quilt* (December 1–7). *B.F.A. Exhibit* (December 10–21). 764–7544.

U-M Residential College/East Quad Art Gallery. *Student Exhibit* (December 7–January 11). See 7 Friday. 763–0176.

U-M Special Collections Library. *From Papyri to King James: The Evolution of the English Bible* (through February 2). *Motor City and More* (through December 31). 764–9377.

U-M Taubman Medical Center. *Ann Arbor Women Artists* (December 17–February 14). See 18 Tuesday. 663–2825.

Warren Robbins Center (U-M School of Art). *Penelope's Diary* (December 5–18). See 10 Monday. 764–0397.

Washington Street Gallery. *A Matter of Perspective* (through December 22). See 7 Friday. 761–2287.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2001–2002 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or www.arborweb.com.

Anderson (8 & 10 p.m.), comedy and magic by **Boyer & Fitzsimmons** (8:30 & 10:15 p.m.), and kids' activities (7:30–8:30 & 9:30–10:15 p.m.).

At the Freight House: dancing to Latin music by **Benny Cruz y la Buena Vida** (7–9 p.m.) and rockabilly, blues, and more by **George Bedard and the Kingpins** (9 p.m.–1 a.m.).

At St. Luke's Church: the **Con Brio** woodwind quartet (7:30 p.m.), saxophonist **Paul Vornhagen** (8:30–11:30 p.m.), children's musicians **Gemini** (7–9 p.m.), blues and folk duo **Madcat & Kane** (9:15 p.m.–12:30 a.m.), bluegrass band **Coupe de Grass** (9 p.m.–midnight), and dulcimer player **Charlene Berry** (7:45–10:30 p.m.).

At First Presbyterian Church: folk and blues duo **Robert Jones and Matt Watroba** (7:30–9:30 p.m.) and storyteller **Melissa Carlson** (7–7:45, 8–8:45, & 9–9:45 p.m.).

At First United Methodist Church: Howell comedian **Heywood Banks** (6:30–7:30 p.m.), boogie-woogie pianist **Mr. B** (8:15 p.m.–12:30 a.m.), and Celtic fiddler **Jeremy Kittel** (7:45–10 p.m.).

At Seventh Day Adventist Church: storyteller **LaRon Williams** (times TBA) and rapper **Brandon Perry** (times TBA).

At Emmanuel Lutheran Church: the **Con Brio** woodwind quartet (9:15–10 p.m.), jazz guitarist **Jake Reichbart** (9–11:30 p.m.), and the vocal ensemble **Choral Connection** (8–9 p.m.).

At the Ypsilanti Historical Museum: classical and flamenco guitarist **Joseph Pratt** (7:30–10 p.m.).

At the Automotive Museum: Entertainers TBA (7:30 p.m.–midnight).

This is probably the Jubilee's last year, due to unfilled leadership positions; new volunteers encouraged to call 480–2518. *6 p.m.–1 a.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Admission tickets $15 in advance through December 26 at Busch's stores and the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor convention and visitors bureaus, $20 December 27–30, and $20 at the door (any venues). Children ages 6–12, $5 (children 5 & under, free) in advance and at the door. For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483–4444 or 995–7281.*

Uncle Bonsai: The Ark. This folk-pop a cappella vocal trio from Seattle was one of the Ark's most popular attractions before disbanding in the late 80s; the group reunited last year. Billed in its heyday as "Seattle's first family of satire," Uncle Bonsai is known for its thrillingly sharp and swooping vocal harmonies and for the audacious, keen-witted humor of songs like "Cheerleaders on Drugs," "Billboard Love," "Boys Want Sex in the Morning," "Penis Envy," and many others. The trio—sopranos Arni Adler and Ashley Eichrodt and countertenor-songwriter Andrew Ratshin—introduced lots of new material in 2 Ark shows last year. *7:30 & 10 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 (early show) & $25 (late show) in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Tim Walkoe: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. This popular Chicago comic, the Grand Prize winner on ABC's *America's Funniest People,* mixes song parodies with rapid-fire series of one-liners, jokes, and topical observations. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets $25.50 (8 p.m.) & $29.50 (10:30 p.m.) in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

New Year's Eve Gala: Parents Without Partners. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never married parents invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s–90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $15 (PWP members, $105). 973–1933.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Peter Jackson, 2001). See 19 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

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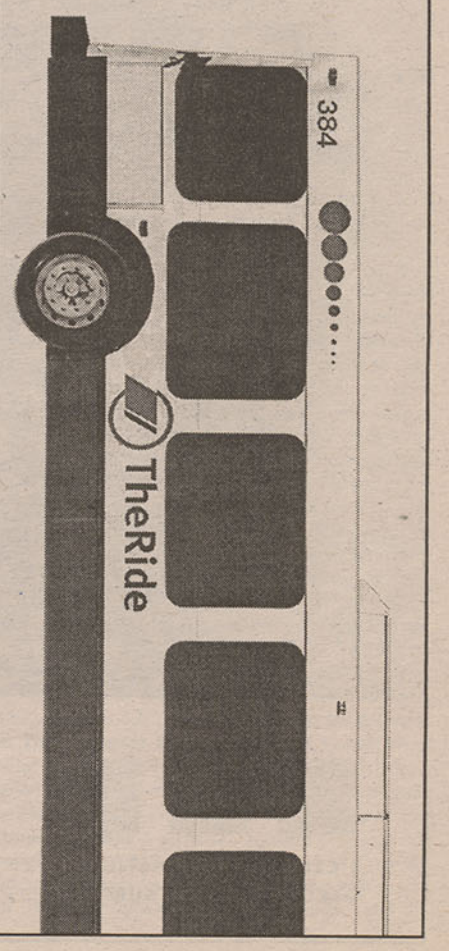

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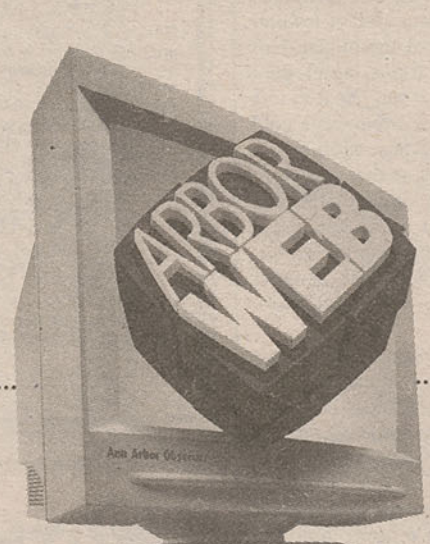

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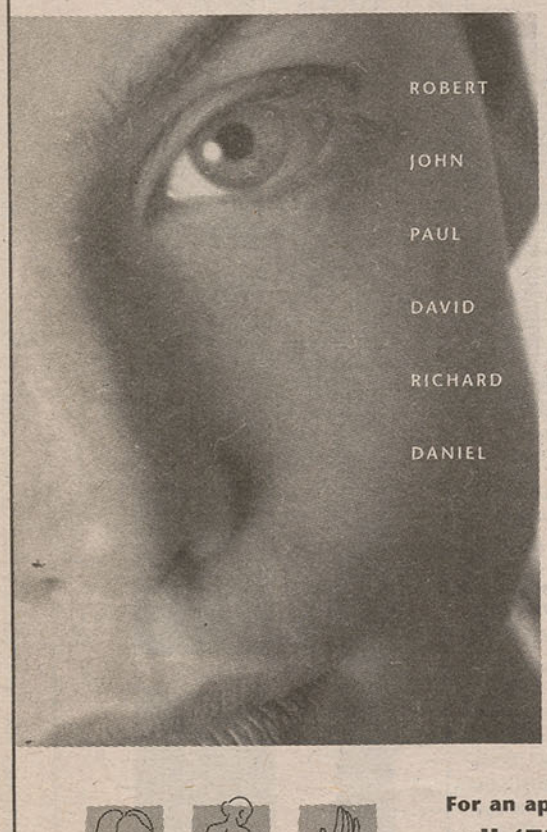

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NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

jazz

Rick Roe's Bop Culture
A sideman steps out

MARGARET WHITE TEALL

If you were to ask a stranger on the street to name one local jazz musician, chances are that it would be Rick Roe. Roe has been playing piano in Ann Arbor and surrounding areas since he was a teenager. He's played in every possible setting, from weddings to formal concerts, and when visiting musicians search for a rhythm section, more often than not Rick turns up at the ivories. For many years he was the house pianist at the Bird of Paradise. When Wynton Marsalis sat in at the club one night a few years ago, he was thrilled to learn the name of his accompanist, for it turned out that he greatly admired Rick's first CD, *Monk's Modern Music,* which had become a minor underground classic in New York.

Roe plays regularly with the best jazz musicians in Ann Arbor and Detroit and teaches jazz piano at MSU, but until recently he has been the quintessential sideman. No longer. On Sunday nights at the Firefly Club, Roe sheds this persona and becomes the leader of his own quartet, Bop Culture.

Many groups come and go, but those that are fortunate enough to have a regular weekly gig can develop rapport and polish their repertoire. Roe has chosen an unusual instrument combination and has selected his musicians carefully: bassist Paul Keller, drummer Bill Higgins, and trumpeter Mark Byerly. This is a band of strong individualists, and the group sound is an amalgam of unique voices.

Their repertoire consists of bop classics as well as standards and original compositions by group members, but this is not a jam band. The arrangements are original and often quite complex. All four musicians like to play with time, and on many tunes they change meter and tempo with ease and grace, giving pieces a new slant and creating elaborate collective improvisations. They approach each composition differently and achieve an amazing musical variety that recalls the Miles Davis Quintet of the late 1960s. Byerly is a deliberate, lyrical trumpeter who likes to sculpt each note. Keller, often a powerful force when at the head of his own bands, plays with delicacy and restraint but also unleashes his energies when needed. Higgins is the perfect drummer for this quartet: he has strong but flexible time, a broad palette of percussive colorings, and the ability to push the band without sounding loud. Roe ties all of this together, clearly elated to be playing with his own group.

Bop Culture keeps changing its arrangements and trying new pieces, taking the time to explore all the possibilities offered by a chord progression, a riff, or a melody. It's the perfect group to listen to on a Sunday night, when the talking crowds are gone and the audience is ready to relax and listen to complex, powerful music.

—Piotr Michalowski

The Alley
2830 Baker Rd., Dexter 426–4707

This bar and grill features live music or DJs on weekends, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Dec. 1: Most Wanted.** 70s, 80s, & 90s rock 'n' roll covers. **Dec. 7: Nick Strange Trio.** Popular local rock, blues, and reggae dance band. **Dec. 8: "Dance Party."** With a DJ TBA. **Dec. 14 & 15: Misconduct.** 80s, 90s, and contemporary rock 'n' roll. **Dec. 21, 22, 28, 29, & 31: "Dance Party."** See above.

The Ark
316 S. Main 761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover (usually $9–$11), no dance floor, but for some shows space is cleared for dancing. Discounts (usually $1) on cover for members ($15/year; families, $25/year). All shows begin at 8 p.m. (Sun., 7:30 p.m.) unless otherwise noted. Ticket sales: If a sellout is anticipated, advance tickets are sold and (occasionally) 2 shows are scheduled. Otherwise, tickets are available at the door only. **Dec. 2: John McCutcheon.** Hammered dulcimer virtuoso whose repertoire features all forms of Appalachian music. See Events. **Dec. 4: "Winter's Grace."** Seasonal music by an ensemble led by bluegrass singer-fiddler **Laurie Lewis.** See Events. **Dec. 5: Over the Rhine.** Artful rock 'n' roll quartet from Cincinnati. See Events. **Dec. 6:** Eclectic Dixieland-based musical gumbo. See Events. **Dec. 7: Special Consensus.** Ace bluegrass band from Illinois. See Events. **Dec. 8: Herdman, Hills, & Mangsen.** All-star female vocal trio. See Events. **Dec. 9: Paul Geremia.** Acoustic blues singer-guitarist. See Events. **Dec. 11: Kitty Donohoe** and **Jan Krist.** Singer-songwriter double bill. **Dec. 12: John Berry.** Pop-country singer. See Events. **Dec. 13: Alvin "Youngblood" Hart.** Acclaimed young blues singer. See Events. **Dec. 14: Carrie Newcomer.** Dynamic young singer-songwriter from northern Indiana. See Events. **Dec. 15: Joel Mabus.** Multi-instrumental folkie singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 29 & 30: "Crossroads Ceili."** Two evenings of Irish music and dance. See Events. 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 31: Uncle Bonsai.** Hugely popular pop-folk vocal trio. See Events. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

Azure Mediterranean Grille
625 Briarwood Circle at S. State 747–9500

This Briarwood-area Mediterranean-style restaurant features occasional live music, 6:30–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: John Carlson.** Flamenco guitarist.

Bird of Paradise
312 S. Main 662–8310

Intimate jazz club owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music 7 nights a week, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (Fri.–Mon.) & 8 p.m.–midnight (Tues.–Thurs.). Cover (unless otherwise noted), no dancing. **Every Sun.: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. **Every Mon.: Tom Allport Big Band.** Jazz ensemble from Warren. **Every Tues.: Ron Brooks Trio.** One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club owner Brooks is joined by pianist Tad Weed and drummer Pete Siers. With guest vocalists TBA. The group has a new CD, *Three B in Flight.* **Every Wed.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. **Every Thurs.: Ron Brooks Trio.** See above. **Dec. 1: Chuck Shermantero/Jim Wyse Quartet.** This Detroit jazz quartet is joined by bassist Ron Brooks. Also, at 5:30 p.m. today, the entire quintet is featured in **"Jammin' for My Brothers,"** a benefit for the NYC Firefighters Disaster Relief Fund (see Events). **Dec. 7 & 8: Joey DeFrancesco Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by organist DeFrancesco. See Events. 9 & 11 p.m. **Dec. 14 & 15: Bobby Broom.** Acclaimed jazz guitarist. See Events. 9 & 11 p.m. **Dec. 21 & 22: Ramona Collins.** Soulful jazz and blues by this Toledo vocalist, who is backed by the Ron Brooks Trio. **Dec. 28 & 29: Sunny Wilkinson & Friends.** This well-known straight-ahead jazz vocalist from L.A. performs bebop ballads and jazz standards. Backed by a trio led by pianist Ron Newman. **Dec. 31: Ramona Collins.** See above.

The Blind Pig
208 S. First 996–8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Closed most Sun. & Mon. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Dec. 1: Madison Greene.** Dave Matthews–style rock originals by this Chelsea band. Opening acts are **Pon,** a similar band also from Chelsea, and **Sourmoon,** a new local pop-rock quartet. **Dec. 4: "ASCAP Showcase Night."** Headliner is **19 Wheels,** a rock 'n' roll band from East Lansing led by vocalist Chris Johnston. Also, the Lansing jam band **Metaphysical Jones,** the superb Detroit Americana duo **American Mars,** and the Detroit rock 'n' roll quartet **Loki. Dec. 5: "Solar Christmas Party."** An evening of hip-hop highlighted by performances by **DJ Assault,** the inventor and undisputed king of the ultraraunchy genre known as "ghettotech," and **Carlos Souffront,** the influential local DJ who plays techno, ambient, and other dance styles. Also, local house music DJ **Chuck Hampton** and **Heckyl and Jeckyl,** the alter ego of the Detroit Grand Pubahs, the darlings of electro dance music who are best known as the writers of the hit "Sandwiches." **Dec. 6: B. Cook.** DJ who plays hip-hop and techno music. **Dec. 7: Inner Recipe.** Local pop-rock band. Opening acts are **Braillehouse,** a Detroit hard-rock band, and **Yellow No. 5,** a band from Downriver that plays a chunky, burnt-out brand of rock 'n' roll known as "Heshercore." **Dec. 8: "U.K. Detroit Collision."** CD release party for 4 bands on the Mi5 Recordings label. See Events. **Dec. 11: Umphrey's McGee.** Jam band from Columbus, Ohio. **Dec. 12: Tuba and Drums.** Jam-oriented jazz-rock. See Events. **Dec. 13: Komposit.** A mix of reggae, R&B, and hip-hop by this DJ collective. **Dec. 14: Smokestack.** Bluesy, groove-oriented Ypsilanti quintet. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD, *It's Coming Down.* Opening acts are **Jiant,** a local pop-rock band, and **Basementality. Dec. 15: Throttlebody.** Talented, inventive, good-time rock 'n' roll band from Saline, formerly known as Solid Frog. Opening acts are **The Fags,** a hard-rocking pop-punk Detroit trio led by Tim Patalan, and **Dirty Americans,** a Detroit band, formerly known as the Workhorse Movement, whose heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. **Dec. 18: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Dec. 19: Hundred Days.** Local power-pop quartet. Opening acts are **Fith,** a local hard-rock band, and **Trip Zigler,** a Detroit pop band. **Dec. 20: Dropjaw.** Emocore band from Ypsilanti. Opening act is **Nipple Dust,** a heavy alternative rock band from Ypsilanti. **Dec. 21: Loadstone.** Local alternative rock band. Opening acts are **Matic,** a local indie rock band, and **Brandon Wiard,** a local indie rock quartet led by singer-songwriter Wiard. **Dec. 22: The Bowery Kings.** Saline band that plays heavy alternative rock. **Dec. 26: "Audiofold."** Experimental electronica by several local performers TBA. **Dec. 27: Brad's Dead Fish.** Hard-rock band from Saline. Opening act is **Lip Lock,** a rap-rock band from Ypsilanti. **Dec. 28: Under Construction.** East Lansing jam band. Opening act is **Rudderhead Lounge,** a local rock 'n' roll quartet. **Dec. 29: Clear.** Local rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are **Big Ass Ham,** an Ypsilanti hardcore band, and **Simple Wisdom,** an Ypsilanti heavy metal band. **Dec. 31: Cloud 9 Music.** Highly regarded funk-rock party band from Jackson led by the deep, raspy vocals of Jamie Register.

Cafe Felix
204 S. Main 662–8650

This downtown cafe features live music Fri., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Underground Jazz Quartet.** This local jazz quartet plays a mix of standards, blues, contemporary pieces, and originals, with an emphasis on Hammond B-3 styles of the likes of Jimmy Smith, Larry Young, and Jack McDuff. Members are guitarist Tom Sinas, organist Duncan McMillian, alto saxophonist Dean Moore, and drummer Jordan Young.

The Cave
2900 Jackson Rd. 332–0277

Lounge in the Best Western Suites. DJs on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: Nite Flight.** Local reggae and calypso band. **Every Sat.: Latino Night.** With DJ Ronnie.

Cavern Club
210 S. First 332–9900

This downtown club, in the Celebration Cellars banquet space in the basement under the Millennium Club, features DJs on Thurs. and live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Millennium Club and Gotham City), dancing. Ages 21 and older admitted. **Every Thurs.: Alternative Classics.** With DJ Mad Maxx. **Dec. 1: Al Hill & the Love Butlers.** Soulful swing, New Orleans–style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. The band has a CD, *Willie Mae.* **Dec. 7: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Super-fine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Triple Crown.* **Dec. 8: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Dec. 14: Immunity.** Local dancehall reggae band. **Dec. 15: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Dec. 21: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." Her debut CD, *Bitch a da Blues,* features originals that range from the racy "Sweet Potato Pie" to the poignant "Chase Away the Blues," along with covers of "Walking the Dog," "Mustang Sally," and the

Hayes & Porter standard "When Something Is Wrong with My Baby." **Dec. 22: Starlight Drifters.** Rockabilly and honky-tonk originals and covers by this local quartet led by indomitable local rocker Chris Casello, who plays electric and steel guitar. With vocalist Billy Alton, bassist David Roof, and drummer Billy Mack. The band's 2nd CD, *Every Note a Pearl,* comes with a recommendation from Jack Scott, whose immortal "The Way I Walk" the band covers, and their 3rd CD is due out soon on the Las Vegas–based Rolling Rock label. **Dec. 28: Black Market.** Popular Detroit reggae-rock band. **Dec. 29: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James–style vocalist. **Dec. 31: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** See above. Opening act is **Immunity.** See above.

Club Above
215 N. Main **663–7758**

This renovated dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg Restaurant features a variety of live and recorded music Wed.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Also, comedy on Tues. (see Events). Cover, dancing. Ages 21 and older admitted unless otherwise noted. **Every Wed.:** TBA. **Every Thurs.:** Live bands TBA. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Carlos plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **Every Sat.: Reggae Night.** With DJs TBA. **Every Sun.: Mexican Night.** With a live Mexican band.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (6:30–10 p.m.) and Thurs. and occasional other nights (9 p.m.–2 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Dec. 6: Fonmoir.** Traditional Irish music, along with some Celtic rock, by this acoustic band from Battle Creek, formerly known as Central Sun. **Dec. 12: Millish.** Irish-worldbeat fusion by this new local quartet. With National Scottish champion fiddler Jeremy Kittel, All-Ireland champion uilleann piper Tyler Duncan, guitarist Blake Mason, and percussionist Glenn Bering. **Dec. 13: Mogue Doyle.** Original Irish rock by this local quartet that has released the CD *God's Own.* **Dec. 19: Bill Long.** Irish rock and American pop by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 20:** TBA. **Dec. 27: The Diggers.** Traditional Irish ballads and drinking songs by this Detroit band.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: Brandon Wiard.** Local folk-flavored pop-country singer-songwriter who is celebrating the release of his CD, *To Someone I Know.* **Dec. 7: Laura Davidson.** A recent arrival from San Francisco, this singer-songwriter is known for her luscious melodies and trenchant lyrics. **Dec. 8: Sean Fitzgerald.** Singer-songwriter from Ferndale known for his wit and skewed perspectives. **Dec. 14: Kristy Hanson.** This Florida transplant performs Celtic, folk, and originals, including material from her new CD, *Half the Moon.* **Dec. 15: "Peace Cabaret."** With a variety of local folksingers and singer-songwriters, including **Lori White, Rhonda Williams, Jeanne Mackey, Lori Fithian, Marco Bruschstein, Ken King,** and others. **Dec. 21: Rollie Tussing III.** Blues classics and blues-based originals by this local vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, who plays National steel and Telecaster guitars. **Dec. 22: Seth Bernard** and **Chris Buhalis.** Double bill. Bernard is a singer-songwriter from Lake City, Michigan, whose music blends jazz and folk elements. Buhalis is a popular local singer-songwriter who sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country originals in a rich, warm voice. He has released a CD, *Kenai Dreams.* Donations accepted to benefit Tea Room manager Jerri Dodge, who is about to embark on a 2-year walk on the perimeter of the continental U.S. as a demonstration for peace.

Creekside Grill and Bar
5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. December schedule TBA.

Crow Bar
309 S. Main **668–0111**

This downtown gay dance club features DJs Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover.

Del Rio
122 W. Washington **761–2530**

No cover, no dancing. Live music Sun., 5:30–9 p.m., and Tues., 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 2: Rick Burgess Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by pianist Burgess and featuring alto saxophonist Vincent York. **Dec. 4: Stunning Amazon.** Local band. **Dec. 9: Dave Sharp Quartet.** Hard-bop, ballads, and straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. **Dec. 11: Kyle Norris.** Local singer-songwriter. **Dec. 16: Rick Burgess Quartet.** See above. **Dec. 18: Chris Buhalis.** See Crazy Wisdom. **Dec. 23: Bassline Jumper.** Jazz quartet led by local bassist Kurt Krahnke. **Dec. 30: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Reichbart.

The Drowsy Parrot
105 N. Ann Arbor St., Saline
429–8595

This Saline coffeehouse features open mikes on Thurs. and live music on occasional Fri. & Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** All acoustic musicians, poets, and storytellers invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter Dave Boutette. **Dec. 1: Bridge Club.** See Zou Zou's. **Dec. 14: Dave Guimond.** Pop-folk singer-songwriter whose topics range from quirky (mushrooms and winter clothing) to essential (love and loss). Remainder of December schedule TBA.

The Earle
121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.–Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillian.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Robert Warren, and a drummer TBA.

Elbow Room
6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti **483–6374**

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music Tues.–Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: Swing-a-Billy.** DJ Del Villareal spins swing, jump blues, and rockabilly records. Also, free swing and jitterbug dance lessons (7:30–8:30 p.m.). **Every Wed.: Open Mike.** All musicians, stand-up comics, and other performers invited. Hosted by the Dan Arbor Band. **Every Thurs.: "77 Style."** DJs Chuck Damage and Joshua Schmuck play 70s music from T Rex to glam punk. **Dec. 1: The Farleys.** Veteran downriver punk band. Opening acts are **The Houston Project,** an Ypsilanti rock 'n' roll band formerly known as the Dysfunctionals, and **Smashbandits,** a hardcore band. **Dec. 2: The And/Ors.** Propulsive, noisily melodic garage-pop rock 'n' roll by this acclaimed San Diego quartet. Opening acts are the **Terranaughts,** an Ann Arbor–Pontiac rock 'n' roll band whose influences range from the Ramones and the Stooges to Cheap Trick to Mudhoney, and **Ayndrone,** a drone-rock noise band from Ontario. **Dec. 3: Stinking Lizavetta.** Rhythmic, moody, angular art-rock by this Philadelphia trio that's been compared both to King Crimson and Black Flag. Opening acts are **Glass,** a local hard-rock band, and **Goodwill,** a local instrumental indie rock band that released the CD *No More Senseless Chatter.* **Dec. 6: Alabama Thunderpussy.** Self-styled "dirty, kickass rock 'n' roll" by this quintet from Richmond, Virginia. Opening acts are **RPG,** a rock 'n' roll band from Virginia, and **Dykemaker,** a stoner sludge-metal band. **Dec. 7:** Headliner TBA. Opening acts are **Bonk,** an Ypsilanti quartet that plays loud and savage 70s-style heavy-rock, and **Peter Torque,** a Detroit rock band. **Dec. 8: Bomb Pops.** Glam-punk rock 'n' roll quartet from Ferndale fronted by vocalist Natalie. Opening acts are the country-punk glam quartet **Bill Parker & His Motherscratchers** and 2 rock bands, **The Jollys** and **Project 9. Dec. 14: "Metal Up Your . . . "** Headliner is **Youthcorpse,** a speed-metal band from Ypsilanti that has a new CD, *Liberty or Death.* Opening acts are the heavy-metal band **Lucifer's Hammer** and 2 doom-metal bands, **Summer Dying** and **Zeitgeist. Dec. 15: "Metal Night II."** With **Tranquil Insanity, Dykemaker, Agony's End,** and enough additional metal bands to resuscitate Bethlehem Steel. **Dec. 16: Carlos.** Indie-rock band from San Francisco. **Dec. 21: Ten Words for Snow.** Melodic, densely textured pop-rock by this Novi quartet. Opening acts are 2 goof-rock bands from Toledo, **Picklebucket** and **PB Army,** and **Cal Meacham,** a pop-rock indie band from Lansing. **Dec. 22: Ramshackle.** Local rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are the local punk metal band **4 Years Gone,** the heavy-rock band **Pillowblock,** and the Ypsilanti pop-rock band **Make Mr. Proper. Dec. 28: Trash Brats.** A band, once dubbed "Detroit's sleaziest band" by the *Metro Times*, that plays Ramones-style punk but is sillier and more spastic. Opening acts are **Kevin K,** a New York City glam band, and **Stomprockets,** a garage-rock quartet led by vocalist Dan Mulholland, the former leader of the Watusis and several other great local rock 'n' roll bands. **Dec. 29: Follow 14.** Local punk band. Opening acts are **Kick Like Crazy,** also a local punk band, and **Glass** (see above). **Dec. 30: Hudson Falcons.** Working-class punk rock band from New Jersey. Opening act is **GC5,** a highly regarded punk band from Cleveland.

Espresso Royale Caffe
214 S. Main **668–1838**

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Sat., 9–11 p.m. **Every Fri.: Open Mike.** All poets and musicians invited. 8–9:30 p.m. **Dec. 1: The Great Lakes Ramblers.** Familiar and obscure swing and country gems, along with some jazz standards, by the local trio of fiddler Paul Winder, singer-pianist Debbie Jackson, and singer-guitarist Myron Grant, who also plays harmonica and bones. **Dec. 8: Emilio Bassa. Dec. 15: Blue Tango.** Local folk- and blues-inflected rock 'n' roll quintet led by vocalist Surry Scheerer and guitarist Jack Scheerer. **Dec. 22: Dev Singh.** Blues, ballads, and soulful folk-styled originals by this local singer-songwriter who accompanies himself on guitar, Autoharp, mouthbow, dulcimer, and piano. **Dec. 29: Doug Wood.** Folk and jazz guitarist from Cleveland.

The Firefly Club
207 S. Ashley **665–9090**

New jazz club in the former home of the Bird of Paradise. Live jazz Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m.; Mon., Wed., & Thurs., 8 p.m.–midnight; and Tues., Fri., & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs.–Sat., 5:30–8 p.m., and Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sunday jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This new local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: Bop Culture.** *See review, p. 107.* Local modern jazz quartet led by pianist Rick Roe. With trumpeter Mark Byerly, bassist Paul Keller, and drummer Bill Higgins. No cover. **Every Tues.: Latin Salsa Party.** With DJ Chepe. Preceded at 7 p.m. by free salsa lessons. **Every Wed.: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. **Dec. 1: Larry Nozero Quintet.** Straight-ahead jazz by this ensemble led by veteran Detroit saxophonist Nozero. **Dec. 3: Still Life.** New local quartet led by trumpeter Tal Kopstein that plays tunes and improvisations in styles ranging from avant-rock to pulsing soundscapes. Opening act is **Trio Miro/Duo,** a trio led by pianist-composer **Christian Matjias** *(see review, p. 83)* that performs ambient pieces from Matjias's new CD, *Suites for Dance,* along with lesser-known works by Astor Piazzolla. **Dec. 6: Bob Margolin.** Chicago blues band led by this veteran guitarist. **Dec. 7 & 8: Danzon by Six.** Miami-based Cuban sextet. See Events. 9 & 11 p.m. **Dec. 10: Steve Rush's "Keith Jarrett Project."** This local jazz quartet led by pianist Rush, a U-M music professor, performs works by the legendary jazz pianist. Opening act is **Steve Rush's Quartechs,** Rush's electronic funk-jazz ensemble. **Dec. 13: Motor City Sheiks.** Jump blues originals by this Detroit quartet led by blues harpist and vocalist Mark Robinson and former Detroit Blues Band guitarist Emmanuel Garza. **Dec. 14 & 15:** TBA. **Dec. 17: Pinwheel.** Avant-jazz originals and improvisations by this new local trio featuring trumpeter Brian Lipson, violinist Jacob Danziger, and percussionist Tim Brown. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 20: Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack, featuring new vocalist Laurie Lee Morris, that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. With bassist Wendy Hayes, guitarist Loren Hsieh, keyboardist and blues harpist Phil Riskey, and drummer Allen Powelson. The band has a new CD, *Well Tuned.* **Dec. 21: Louis Smith Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit bebop trumpeter Smith, a retired U-M jazz professor and Pioneer High music teacher. With pianist Gary Shunk, bassist Jeff Halsey, and drummer Burt Myrick. **Dec. 22:** Closed. **Dec. 27: Witch Doctors.** This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayrone, best known as the host of WEMU's nationally syndicated *Bone Conduction Music Show,* plays what Thayrone calls "way-strong mojo, ritualistic barroom blues healing." With blues harpist Chef Chris, bassist Bill Lewis, and drummer Tom Twiss. **Dec. 28:** TBA. **Dec. 29: Ursula Walker.** This veteran Detroit jazz singer is backed by her husband, pianist Buddy Budson. **Dec. 31: Paul Keller Quartet.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller.

Gotham City
210 S. First **913–8890**

This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Millennium Club, features DJs on Thurs. and live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern and Millennium clubs), dancing. Ages 21 and older admitted. **Every Thurs.: House Mix.** A variety of contemporary dance music with a DJ TBA. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Dance Mix.** DJ TBA plays dance music.

The Habitat
3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano (6–9 p.m.) by **Adam Riccinto** (Tues.–Fri.) and **Tom Knapp** (Sat. & Sun.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Swank Life."** DJ Al Velour spins vintage big band records. Period attire encouraged. 4 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 1: Immunity.** See Cavern Club. **Dec. 4–6: Hot Ice.** Dance band that plays Motown covers. **Dec. 7 & 8: Buster Wylie & the Buster Blues Band.** Local blues band led by singer-bassist Wylie. **Dec. 11–15: Risque.** Pop-soul dance band from Traverse City that plays lots of Motown covers. **Dec. 18–20: Chateau.** Top 40 dance band. **Dec. 21 & 22: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** See Cavern Club. **Dec. 26 & 27: Jack Pot.** Top 40 dance band. **Dec. 28, 29, & 31: Diamond Dukes.** R&B dance band.

Kerrytown Bistro
415 N. Fourth Ave. **994–6424**

This Kerrytown restaurant features live jazz on Wed., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist.

Leonardo's
2101 Bonisteel Blvd. **764–7544**

Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. No dancing, no cover. **Dec. 3: Jazz Jam Session.** All musicians invited. 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 5: "Something to Do with Jazz."** Performances by various U-M student jazz ensembles. 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 10: Jazz Jam Session.** See above. **Dec. 11: Into the Freylakh.** Energetic local klezmer sextet with clarinetist Bryan Pardo, violist Dina Maccabee, violinist Gabe Bolkosky, bassist Dan McNaughton, percussionist Dan Piccolo, and pianist Isaac Schlanker.

Leopold Bros.
523 S. Main **747–9806**

This downtown brewpub features live music Sun., 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Mon., Wed., Sat., & occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Ages 21 and older admitted. Cover, dancing. **Every Mon.: "The Family Affair."** Electronic music by different DJs and live performers TBA each week. December schedule TBA.

Millennium Club
210 S. First **913–8890**

This new downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the new Gotham City club, features DJs Thurs.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern Club and Gotham City), dancing. Ages 21 and older admitted. **Every Thurs.: Hip-Hop Night.** With DJ Mad Maxx. **Every Fri.** (except Dec. 14)**: Techno Night.** With DJ Mad Maxx. **Every Sat.** (except Dec. 15)**: Top 40 Night.** With DJ Mad Maxx. **Dec. 14, 15, & 31: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Wayne.

Mitch's Place
1301 South University **665–2650**

This bar and grill features live music, Tues. & frequent other nights, 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover, some

dancing. **Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague.** Veteran local roots-rock singer-guitarist. **Dec. 1: Fenster.** Blues-rock band from Ohio. **Dec. 7: Green Scene.** Alternative rock 'n' roll band. Remainder of December schedule TBA.

Mugs Hideout

211 W. Michigan
Ypsilanti **484–4049**

All-ages, alcohol-free music club that features 3–6 live bands. Fri.–Sat. & occasional other nights, 7 p.m. Cover, dancing. December schedule TBA.

Necto

510 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular local dance club features local and national DJs 5 nights a week, 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (after 10 p.m.), dancing. **Every Tues. & Fri.: "Pride Night."** U.K. house and club dance music, with DJs Roger and John. **Every Wed.: "Rare Groove."** DJs spin hip-hop, acid jazz, old-school funk, and disco records, along with live musicians, vocalists, and freestyle MCs TBA. Also, local and national acid jazz and hip-hop performers. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** DJ Urban Kris spins a funky mix of house, techno, and club dance music. **Dec. 6: Juan Atkins.** Dubbed the "Godfather of Techno," this DJ founded Detroit electronic music. **Dec. 13: Kevin Saunderson.** Pioneering Detroit house/techno DJ and founder of the celebrated dance music group Inner City. **Dec. 20 & 27:** Celebrity DJs TBA.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty **761–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 2: John Latini.** Local singer-songwriter. **Dec. 9: Jim Roll.** Roll is a highly regarded local singer-songwriter known for his barbed alt-country-flavored folk-rock ballads and love songs. He recently released his 2nd CD, *Lunette.* **Dec. 16: Robert McReedy.** This former Volebeats singer-songwriter celebrates the release of his debut CD, *Streamliner.* **Dec. 23: Roger Possley.** Traditional English folk songs by this folksinger who plays guitar and mandolin. **Dec. 30: "New Year's Jam."** All musicians invited to join a bluegrass and old-time music jam hosted by local singer-songwriter and WCBN DJ Chad Williams.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church **996–2747**

This campus-area club features DJs Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon. & Thurs.: "Jammin' DJs."** DJs TBA play dance music. **Every Wed.: "High Energy Dance Party."** With DJ John King. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Supermack.** Techno music with DJs from Supermack Productions.

Scorekeepers Sports Bar & Grill

310 Maynard **995–0100**

DJs on Thurs.–Sat. Cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.–Sat.: Dance Music.** With DJ John King.

Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave. **302–3687**

This dinner club features DJs Wed.–Sat., 9:30 p.m–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed.: DJ Reese.** A variety of dance music. **Every Thurs.–Sat.** (except Dec. 6)**: DJ O.** 70s–90s Top 40 dance music, with some R&B and techno mixed in. **Dec. 6: B. Cook.** R&B and hip-hop.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **483–4470**

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features DJs on Tues. (9 p.m.–1 a.m.) and dance bands on Thurs.–Sat. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). Solo piano by **Art Stephan** on Fri., 6–9 p.m. Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Every Tues.: "Tite-Ass Tuesday."** Dance music with DJ Speed E. Smith. **Dec. 1: Ghettobillies.** Local acoustic guitar trio that specializes in sweet and gritty country-rock with glee club harmonies, a frat band lyrical sensibility, and occasional neopsychedelic yearnings. The band has a new CD, *Butterface.* **Dec. 6: The Bitter Pills.** Clamorous, frenetic Detroit–Ann Arbor punk, featuring power-chord ditties of social desolation, by this local trio led by 2 former State members, singer-guitarist Preston Woodward and drummer Keir Murray. With bassist Rob Koeff and occasional guests. **Dec. 7: Metaphysical Jones.** Jam band from Lansing. **Dec. 8: Donkey Punch.** Local ska band that released the CD *Your Everything Else.* **Dec. 13: Teddy Richards.** Rock 'n' roll originals and covers by a band led by this singer-guitarist, the son of soul legend Aretha Franklin. **Dec. 14: 60 Second Crush.** Detroit hard-rock band, led by Motordolls bassist Dana Forrester. **Dec. 15: Jacktown Hustlers.** Versatile 8-piece groove-oriented big band from Jackson that plays everything from swing and R&B to funk and hip-hop. **Dec. 20:** TBA. **Dec. 21: Downtown Brown.** Ypsilanti jam band. **Dec. 22: Deep Space 6.** Local Grateful Dead cover band. **Dec. 27 & 28:** TBA. **Dec. 29: Moon Madness. Dec. 31: Harm's Way.** Local hardcore trio fronted by two rappers. The band's single, "Chong Sized Bong," reached #4 on *High Times* POT 25 list and was featured in Tommy Chong's film *Best Buds.* Opening act is **Soot,** a local heavy-funk rock quartet that has a CD, *Off the Nog.*

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **482–5320**

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music 5 nights a week, usually 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Sun., 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Unplugged.** Hosted by **Chris Buhalis,** a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. **Every Tues.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by the **Danny Pratt Band,** a local blues band led by singer-guitarist Pratt. All bands and musicians invited. **Every Wed.: Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All acoustic and electric musicians invited. **Every Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** Blues, rock, and jazz originals by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 7: Starlight Drifters.** See Cavern Club. **Dec. 8: The Blue Rays.** Local blues band led by guitarist Dave Kaftan and featuring vocalist Angel Tristin. **Dec. 14: Curtis Sumter Project.** Blues and R&B band from Detroit. **Dec. 15: TC & the Roadmasters.** Blues and blues-rock band from the Irish Hills, led by singer-guitarist T. C. DeLisle, that released the CD *Undercover Blues.* **Dec. 21: Steve Somers Band.** Top-notch soul-flavored R&B, blues, and 70s funk sextet led by Somers, a versatile guitarist with a pungent, staccato style, and vocalist **Valerie Barrymore.** The band recently released a CD, *Foundation of Funk.* **Dec. 22: Danny Pratt Band.** See above. **Dec. 28 & 29: The Witch Doctors.** See Firefly.

Theo Doors

705 W. Cross, Ypsilanti **485–6720**

This EMU campus–area tavern turns into a dance club after 10 p.m., with live music Wed and occasional weekends and DJs on Mon. & Thurs. Karaoke on Tues. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed.: Jerry Sprague.** See Mitch's. **Every Thurs.: Modern Night.** DJs spin Top 40 dance tunes.

Touchdown Cafe

1220 South University **665–7777**

This campus-area cafe features DJs Thurs.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed. & Fri.:** DJs TBA plays hip-hop and other dance records. **Every Thurs.:** Live bands TBA.

Zou Zou's Cafe

101 N. Main, Chelsea **433–4226**

This Chelsea cafe features live music Fri. & Sat. and occasional Wed., 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: Ed Sugar.** R&B and blues instrumentals by this veteran local saxophonist, who also plays synthesizer. **Dec. 7: Gregory Stovetop.** Local pop-folk singer-songwriter influenced by Tom Petty and Bob Dylan. **Dec. 8: Mike Beattie.** Acoustic folk and rock by this Whitmore Lake singer-guitarist. **Dec. 14:** TBA. **Dec. 15: The Bridge Club.** Jazz and blues by this guitar trio. **Dec. 21: Preston Woodward.** This veteran Ann Arbor–Detroit punk vocalist plays English concertina and sings old Scots ballads, medieval French and German minstrel songs, and other older traditional songs. He also accompanies himself on Dobro, harmonica, and melodica. **Dec. 28: Debbie Fogell.** Jazz vocalist. **Dec. 29:** TBA.

Zydeco

314 S. Main **995–3600**

Live music Tues.–Sat., 7–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.–Sat.: Al Hill.** Soulful New Orleans–flavored R&B by this veteran local singer-pianist. Hill is occasionally out of town with his band, and on those occasions blues and jazz pianist **Tim Brockett** fills in, when he's available. ■

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with Tim Walkoe
- Non-stop laughter from this guitar slingin' jokester from the Windy City
- From SHOWTIME's 'Comedy Club Network'
- A & E's 'Comedy on the Road'
- Played guitar on tour with Joe Cocker, Billy Ray Cyrus and Muddy Waters.
8 pm $25.50 - 10:30pm $29.50 late show includes party favors
FOR ALL OF THIS MONTHS COMEDIANS, SEE LISTINGS IN THIS ISSUE
Need a Gift Idea?
Our Gold Passes are the perfect gift of laughter!
1/2 OFF Admission
This coupon valid for one General Admission ticket Thursday or our late shows.
General Admission seating availability only
Expires 12-29-01, 2001.
Excludes 11-23 & 24-01
Showtimes
Thursday 8:00pm
Friday 8:00 & 10:30pm
Saturday 8:00 & 10:30pm
Questions? Call us
734-996-9080
or visit our website
www.aacomedy.com
FRIDAY 8PM SHOWS ARE NON-SMOKING SHOWS

PERSONALS

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

Every Friday at 8:35 a.m. on Kool 107 FM
Listen for the Personals Ads of the Week from
Kool 107's Lucy Ann Lance and
the Ann Arbor Observer's Jackie O'Callaghan.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

KOOL 107
Ann Arbor's Kool 107

Ann Arbor Observer

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Would you enjoy being first in a beautiful woman's life? Getting warm backrubs for gentle foot rubs? Savoring delicious meals for going to plays and concerts? Classy, **SWPF,** 40+, offers all that and more. ☎3586✍

Earth goddess, redhaired, active, **SWPF,** 45, no children, ISO caring, accommodating PM for LTR. Spirituality, love of nature, the arts, health required. ☎3479✍

Attractive, sweet, loving, **DWPF,** 52, enjoys dancing, art, music, films, cooking, fitness, laughter. Seeks sincere, NS, well-educated, WPM, 45–60, for LTR. ☎2846✍

I Dream of Jeannie look-alike! **SWPF,** 50, with a child's love of life. Petite, blonde hair, very blue eyes wants to share life, love, travel. ☎3996✍

DWPF, 57, 5'4", H/WP, NS, physically fit, fun loving, attractive, caring, intelligent, and educated. ISO SWPM, 54–64, H/WP, NS, fun loving, fit, and handsome. Must be sensitive, generous, educated, and enjoy cultural, fitness, outdoor, travel, and dining activities. I am looking for companionship that could lead to a LTR. ☎3995✍

SWPF looking for kind, humorous, degreed SWPM, 32–42, who wants to settle down, but isn't willing to "settle." ☎3991✍

SWF, 42, with interesting baggage and much to offer seeks SWM, 36–47, NS. Kids and animals OK. Good heart is key. ☎3993✍

First time ad for petite, positive, affectionate blonde who likes to laugh, dance, entertain, and much more. **SPF,** mid 50s, NS. ISO the right man who enjoys life and love. ☎3999✍

Loving, kind, honest, attractive, **DWCPF,** 52, 5'7", ISO LTR with a man who enjoys dancing, nature, love, and new experiences. ☎4000✍

SWPF, 38, energetic, fun loving, down to earth. I'm 5'3", petite build, physically fit, NS. Never been married, no children, but open to both. I love to laugh, learn, and experience all life has to offer. I love children, animals, the outdoors, sunshine, biking, swimming, long walks, dancing, music, theater, and travel. Seeking SWPM, 35–45, NS, who is financially secure and is open to new experiences. ☎3992✍

Could you be love . . . and be loved? Svelte, renaissance, **SBPF** seeks her DaVinci. I am the jewel and the Ethiops Ear. If you are a gentle man and understand this ad, je voudrai faire la belle musique entre nous. ☎4002✍

SWF, 38, easygoing optimist striving for balance in love, work, play, and spirituality. Searching for a funny, confident, generous gentleman, 35–45. ☎4001✍

SWF, 32, 5'8", H/WP, ISO tall SWM, H/WP. Likes cooking and the outdoors. I love animals and romantic evenings in or out. Caring, warm, with sense of humor. ☎4003✍

SF, 37, with new 128-color crayon box seeks SM for a LTR of bright, broad strokes and plenty of coloring outside the lines. ☎4099✍

Kind, gentle, petite woman ISO short, happy, peaceful sorta man. 51, jazz, home, wood, Tao, cats, love, companionship, LTR. ☎4100✍

Intelligent, attractive, eclectic, **DWPF,** 47, ISO intelligent, liberal, emotionally and physically fit WPM with integrity and humor. Enjoys healthy living, loving, learning, laughing, NPR, travel, and music. ☎4101✍

It's going to be a white Christmas . . .

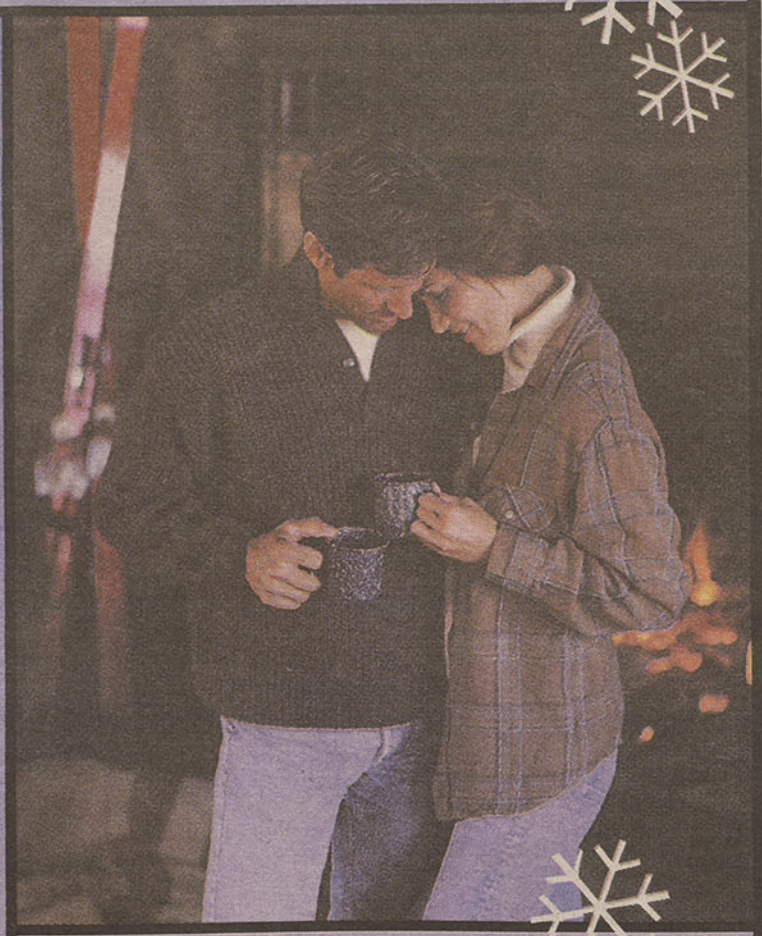
. . . but what kind of Christmas are you dreaming of?

Make your holidays warmer and brighter this year—place an ad in the Ann Arbor Observer Personals today, because there's someone out there dreaming of you, too.

It's easy and fun! Record your own personal voice greeting and make a great first impression.

You can also place your ad free on-line at www.arborweb.com

Ann Arbor Observer



To place your FREE Observer Personals ad, call **(734) 769–3175** or Fax: (734) 769–3375
On-line: www.arborweb.com
To respond to a Personals Ad by phone, call (900) 370–2072.

Men Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Well-educated, simplistic, fit, **DWPM** seeking attractive, polished woman, 38–45, who enjoys the outdoors and good humor. Children welcome. ☎3031✍

I would like to meet a casual, easygoing person who loves to be active. I am a tall, physically fit, **SWM,** 40, who is in search of a fun, thin, physically fit, intelligent SF, 27–38, who has a good sense of humor. I enjoy photography, sports, music, and dining out. ☎3482✍

SWPM, 40, 6', 190 lbs., athletic, good sense of humor, sensitive, quiet, good at fixing things and map reading. Seeks SWPF, 30s, active, warm for LTR. ☎3906✍

SBM, new to the Ann Arbor area, looking for a SWF to show around. Loves movies, romantic evenings, candlelit dinners. Are you looking for me? ☎3998✍

Educated, easygoing, progressive, **DWM,** 51, 5'10", loves travel, social gatherings, theater, honesty, the arts, and much more. ISO SWF for LTR. ☎6885✍

Handsome, educated outdoorsman, blond, tall, thin, E. Ann Arbor–area home owner, seeks a beautiful, educated, svelte, blonde, WF, 30s–40s, for romantic LTR. ☎4004✍

Most honest guy in the United States! **SWM,** 40, seeks dauntless, trim enough, youthful, natural, expressive, and optimistic SWF. ☎4005✍

None of the above, unique, sensitive, earthy, eclectic, ex-educator. **SWM,** 44, seeks interesting, NS, fun-loving, liberal, ageless lady ISO LTR. ☎4098✍

Romantic, humorous, **DWM,** 54, seeks NS, friends first, marriage partner. Interests: travel, walking, nature, food, dancing, chocolate. ☎1080✍

SWM, fit, slim, intelligent, educated, honest, accommodating. Interests: books, movies, music, travel. ISO similar SWF, intelligent, compatible, attractive, 40s–mid-50s. ☎2918✍

PERSONALS

Arabian race horse, very fit, experienced, with minimal guidance can win Kentucky Derby. ISO slender filly to graze, frolic, run the circuit with and, in time, win the derby. **DWPM** seeks WPF. ☎3638✍

Decent gentleman, 35, big heart, financially comfortable, looking for an independent lady of quality and values. ☎2845✍

SWM, NS/ND, fit, trim, open-minded, tall, athletic, martial artist, no kids ISO athletic, understanding, passionate SF. Movies and casual events, outdoorsman. ☎3994✍

SWPM, 45, 5'8", fit, no dependents, communicative, humorous, introspective, flexible, persevering, and more. Seeking fit, emotionally available SWPF, 28–45. ☎3642✍

Women Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Men Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

GWPM, 50s, fit, trim, Christmas/New Year's gift, seeks mature, attractive male, H/WP, NS, secure, affectionate, with interests in books, joie de vivre. ☎3906✍

Friendships

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

General Personals

TELL YOUR STORY!

Ever wanted to get the events of your life on paper?

Ever wish that a friend or family member would record those great memories for posterity?

Be interviewed by an award-winning writer and journalist. We'll record and transcribe the interview, then give you the tapes and a pair of hardcover transcripts that will last for years.

We're interviewing experts. We don't just ask for facts like names, dates, and places. We work with you to convey what it was really like to be there—how it felt, what it meant, how it changed you. And though we ask the questions, you tell your story in your own words.

A LifeStory makes a great gift that lasts for generations. Perfect for anyone with a story to tell . . .

Seniors who want to leave a legacy for their families.

Parents who want to remember their children's first years.

Graduates and Retirees looking back on their achievements.

Anyone who wants to record how they lived and what they lived through.

LIFESTORIES, 994–0814

Are you looking to meet new people, give back to your community, and increase your personal skills all at the same time? **The Ann Arbor Jaycees are for you!** As a leadership training organization for adults ages 21–39, we offer you the chance to improve yourself and your community while making new friends and having fun. Come check us out at our membership meetings the first Thursday of each month or go to www.a2jaycees.org for our calendar of events with dates and locations, or call 913–9629.

FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; E-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB

"You don't have to ski to be a member!" The AASC offers year-round social and sports activities for singles and couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 800 members! Upcoming events include: **Night out on the Town,** 12/1; **Pre-Party Planning Meeting** at Max & Erma's, 12/13; **General Meeting/Dance** at Cobblestone Farm, 12/13; **Christmas Dinner Dance,** 12/14. For more info on events, including sign-up procedures, consult the Club Hotline, (734) 761–3419 or www.a2skiclub.org.

FREE

5 Reasons to Place a Personals Ad

- ❑ Why not turn sleigh bells into wedding bells this year?
- ❑ There's "snow" man like the one you'll find in here!
- ❑ In the season of giving, give yourself the gift of meeting someone special.
- ❑ You're hungry. (You could win Dinner for Two at The Earle and $10 toward a coffee and dessert at Espresso Royale Caffe.)
- ❑ It's FREE!*

Observer Personals Ads are also posted on
www.arborweb.com

For information on placing a Personals ad, see page 113 or call 734•769•3175

To respond to a Personals ad or browse Personals by phone call 1•900•370•2072
($1.95/minute)

* First four lines are free for singles seeking relationships. $7.00 each additional line. Refer to form and guidelines on page 113.

Congratulations!

PERSONALS
"AD OF THE MONTH"

Women Seeking Men
SF, 37, with new 128-color crayon box seeks SM for a LTR of bright, broad strokes and plenty of coloring outside the lines. ☎4099✍

Personals ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are eligible for our monthly contest. The winner, chosen for creativity and originality, will receive certificates for *Dinner for Two at The Earle and Coffee and Dessert for Two at Espresso Royale Caffe.*

To place an Ann Arbor Observer Personals ad, see form on page 113.

the earle — ESPRESSO ROYALE CAFFE

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Phone, Call 1•900•370•2072

Follow the simple directions and you will be able to hear more about the people whose ads interest you, or you can browse ads by category. With one call, you can leave as many messages as you like. You may call anytime, 24 hours a day. Voice greetings are valid only for the month they appear in print.

You must be 18 or older.
Touch-Tone phones only. $1.95 a minute.

RESPOND.

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail

Responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes. Mail all responses in a large envelope; include a check for $3 per response made payable to:

Ann Arbor Observer
201 Catherine • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

$1,500 A MONTH PT, $4,500–$7,200 FT WORK IN HOME. Company needs supervisors and assistants. We'll teach you step by step. Free booklet. www.HomeFreedomBusiness.com. (888) 220–8087.

Have you found your calling yet? Do you want to be of service making the world a better place as well as making a good living from home? Known motivational speaker/entertainer with nonprofit ministry seeks self-motivated booker for speaking, concerts, colleges, corporate, youth at risk programs, etc. Good computer and phone skills a must. Commission to start, possible salary once proven. Call Ann at (734) 669–6402.

Valet Parking Attendants
U-M Medical Center
FT/PT, exc. pay. Call (734) 651–2616.

Entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

BIRTHDAY MAGIC
"Kids Love Our Magic Shows!"
A2 MAGIC ★ (734) 996–2442

TERRABELLA TRIO
Elegant music featuring flute, violin, and cello. Call (734) 996–0303.

★ HAMMER DULCIMER ★
Unique Music for the Holidays.
Recording artist Jane Chevalier.
(734) 461–2453.

Live harp music for any occasion. Harp doctorate, U-M. Flute or oboe and Harp Duo also available. Call Laurel, 663–9292.

★★ PUPPET SHOWS ★★
Exciting shows for children's parties, schools, and organizations. Call Myra's Amazing Puppets. (734) 665–6643.
Special Holiday Shows Available!

LIVE MUSIC
For all occasions. **Espresso** plays great music for dancing and listening. Jazz, Motown, Classic Rock, and more. Call David for tape and song list, 439–2151.

★ WEDDING/PARTY DJ ★
Largest music selection presented with taste, elegance.
Very reasonable rates. 572–9535.

LA CORDA ENSEMBLE
String duos, trios, and quartets for all festive occasions. (734) 459–5296.
www.lacorda.com

★ HAVE HARP ★ WILL TRAVEL ★
Quality Work, Reasonable Rates
Classical to Popular to Irish Folk
University of Michigan grad
Call Rochelle, (734) 475–1660.

Classical/Flamenco Guitar—Romantic, Energetic, Professional. (734) 769–1574.

INTRADA
Professional woodwind quintet for weddings, receptions, parties, etc. Classical to popular music. (734) 994–5457.

PROFESSIONAL SOUND SYSTEM RENTAL for your events. 20 yrs.' experience. Corporate, private parties, DJs. Great rates. Call (313) 274–8342.

LADYFINGERS
Unique four-hand piano duo provides sparkling music for your most festive occasions. A lighthearted presentation of the most beautiful classical and popular music. (734) 213–5607 or la61154@aol.com.

GYPSY PUPPET THEATRE
Interactive puppet shows & stories for all your special occasions.
Call Pamela, (734) 330–6281.

★ THE ULTIMATE GIFT ★
Give a gift of adventure and something they always remember this holiday season. Gift certificate for a hot-air balloon flight. For information/brochure on our 2002 season flights, call Fairwind Aeronautics Ltd. (734) 971–3660.

Ann Arbor Federation of Musicians—Your best source for live music. Free referrals or list of professional musicians and groups. 668–8041.

Lessons & Workshops

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

VOICE • PIANO
All Ages • All Levels Instruction
Gini Robison, (734) 487–2691.

Meditation for Stress Management. Regain balance, effectiveness, and perspective. Experienced teacher for coaching and classes. ***Inroads,*** Sandra Finkel, M.P.H., (734) 769–0053, smfinkel@umich.edu.

★★ BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE ★★
For business or travel.
Rapid, all levels. **485–3842.**

PIANO ★ MUSIC ★ THEORY
ALL AGES, ALL LEVELS
Prof. musician on grand piano in westside home. U-M School of Music grad degree. Reasonable fee and flexible arrangements.
Marian Stolar, (734) 761–7384.

YOURIST POTTERY STUDIO
Register now for winter classes. All ages, all levels. Open Tues.–Sat., 11–6.
1160 Broadway. 662–4914.
Pottery wheels, tools, & gift certificates available.
www.youristpottery.com

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD for referrals to qualified, professional piano teachers.
All levels and ages, 665–5346.

AIKIDO
New-membership special. Two months for $80 to new members. Call for details. 761–6012, 2030 Commerce Dr.

Voice Lessons for nonsingers and singers. All ages, all music types, speaking. Personal expression focus. Experienced teacher, Certified music therapist. See my new studio! Kathleen Moore, (734) 668–8146.

Traditional Karate
Classes for men, women, and children. 2839 Boardwalk. No contract. 665–2840.
www.okinawankarateAnnArbor.com

Music Lessons—Give the gift of music this holiday season. Adult Quikstart program for violin, viola, cello, bass. Call (734) 213–8442.

Intermediate-Advanced Piano Lessons by former Moscow Conservatory graduate. Waleed Howrani, 663–3221.

French Tutoring children & adults. Native speaker. Yona Moukouri, 827–9553.

Overnight Introductory Meditation Course/Retreat, 7 p.m. Fri., Nov. 30 through 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 1 includes instruction, overnight stay, and vegetarian meals. **Year-End Service "Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind,"** a beautiful candlelighting service, 7 p.m. Dec. 31. **New Year's Day Service,** 11:30 a.m. Jan 1. **Introductory Meditation Course,** 5 Thurs., 6:30–8:30 p.m. begins Jan. 10. Zen Buddhist Temple. 1214 Packard (at Wells), Ann Arbor, MI. 48104. (734) 761–6520.

HOLISTIC MIDWIFERY INSTITUTE
Offers professional training for midwives and doulas, holistic birth preparation, and more. (734) 663–1523
or visit www.holisticmidwifery.org

There's a new cello teacher in town. Noncompetitive approach emphasizing musicality and body-friendly technique. Adult beginners and "beginning again-ers" especially welcome! 20+ yrs.' experience.
Paula Clark, (734) 668–7099.

For Sale

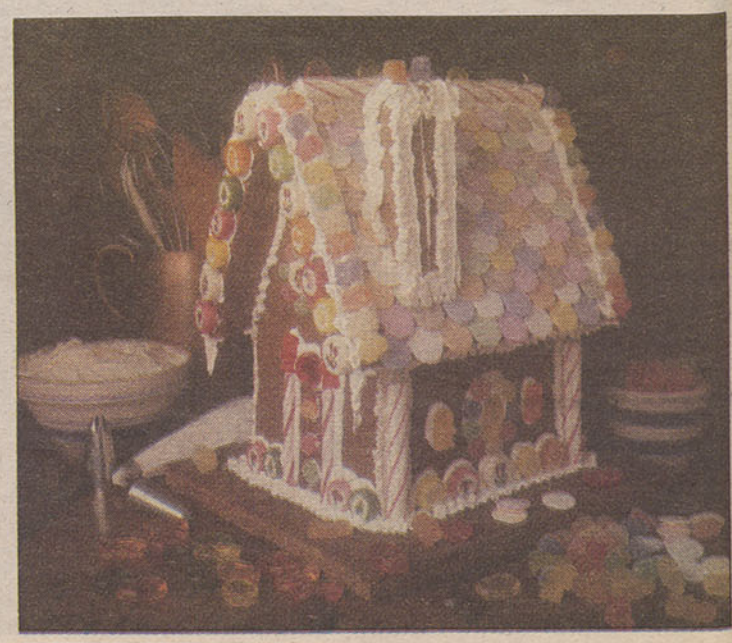
I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 131? If you can, you could win a copy of the latest edition of *Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor, Michigan.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; E-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

MOSAIC CLASSES
Offered by Yulia Hanansen
Evening & Daytime Lessons Taught
(734) 769–8478, yhanansen@hotmail.com

CONQUER PHOTOSHOP at home, archive your personal images like the pros. Private tutor and pro photographer. Jordan, (734) 662–9646.

Services

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.



CLASSIFIEDS

HOLIDAY RELIEF
Turn over your shopping to us or we'll bake while you shop. We mail, make reservations, and more. Personal concierge service. Taskbusters, 347–0520.

Accurate Psychic/Channel/Medium
Personal readings, parties, events, by appt. Call **Nanci Rose Gerler, Crystal Clear Expressions** (734) 996–8799.
Gift Certificates Available!

Business

The Mac Guy
Macintosh Tutor and Consultant.
Professional computer instruction in your home or office. Internet, networking, RAM upgrades, audio/video, MIDI, instruction, web, multi-media. Call for free buying advice. Sliding scale for nonprofits. (810) 231–0677.

CateredCoffee.Com
Bringing you the finest cappuccino experience for your special event.
Frank, (734) 878–1214.

HOUSEHOLD COMPUTING
Home computer service, Windows and Apple machines, network and standalone. Visit www.householdcomputing.com or call (734) 646–1869.

Feeling Overwhelmed?
FRESH START ORGANIZING
offers professional services
for home or office problems.
(734) 480–7666

Health

*** WOW * Therapeutic Massage**
$30/hr. Ann Arbor. Institute of Massage Therapy Student Clinic, 677–4430. Call today for your appointment!

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
Greysheet Food Plan. 1400 W. Stadium, 9 a.m., Saturday only. For info call 995–5801.

NEUROFEEDBACK
Heal yourself with this safe, effective alternative therapy for depression, stress, anxiety, ADD, addictions, sleep problems. Eve Avrin, Ph.D. (734) 913–9870.

HOME EXERCISE TRAINING
Self-Massage Technique
June Smedley, MS. (734) 761–2273.
junesmed@hotmail.com

HYPNOSIS • Feeling Stuck?
Try **HYPNOTIC SOLUTIONS.**
For information, call
Anne Mininberg, FCH, C.Ht.
(734) 665–7813.

Tired of merely surviving, not really living? I utilize 19 years' experience in herbalism, nutrition, and shamanism to create a program for you. Every "body" is different. Nutritional analysis with food and supplements, exercises, and meditations only $40. elena.narkiya@verizon.net, 818 Frank St., Adrian, MI 48221. (517) 266–6721.

Traditional Chinese Acupuncture. Michael Allan Guilpain, certified in China and Europe. Reasonable rates. 408 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 222–0027.

Body Ease Therapeutic Massage—First session, $35/hr. In-home sessions. Group series discounts. Relax! (734) 998–0340.

Home

CRITTER CARE
Pet Care When You Can't Be There
Kristina Taylor
(734) 747–8259

★ PAINTING ★★
Neighborhood Painters
Interior and Exterior
Deck Maintenance
Gutter Cleanings
Call Luis, (734) 276–7464.

Professional Handyman Plus—Is something broken or not working right? Does it bother you? Call Rob, 368–0114. Since 1995. Insured. Degreed Engineer.

Abandon your search and let's not be sexist—call **Pete the Dustman** for your housecleaning chores. Bonded and insured. 677–2125.

NEED A PAINTER? First in quality, call Bob. Days or eves. 10% off with ad. (734) 668–0417.

Beautiful custom-made slipcovers.
"Holiday Specials"
Michigan's Mom, 913–8131, Ramona.

Organic Gardeners • Nature & Nurture, LLC. Design, maintenance, natives, edibles, and more. (734) 368–2610.

★★ Meticulous Moms ★★
Perfectionist cleaners & organizers.
995–5369, 996–8519.

HOUSECLEANING available—experienced, references, free estimates. Call and ask for Barb. (734) 241–8582.

Make Room For What You Really Want! I'll work with you to organize your home or office to do just that.
Effective, efficient.
Andrea Anbender, 669–6019.

CARPENTRY—Remodeling, trim, basements, kitchens, decks, custom shop work. Call me today. Carl Schneider, licensed and insured builder. (734) 426–4751 or (734) 730–4949.

Retired man Jim will do yard work, light hauling. (734) 483–4244.

Cleaning to Brag About! Dependable, detail oriented, deep cleaning. 998–0340.

Affordable home repair. Minor jobs. Plumbing, electrical, carpentry. Evening hours, senior discounts. (734) 730–9329.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT: I can help with office organization, household chores, home repair, gift buying, project coordination, holiday parties, and even assistance while you travel. Call Cecile at 477–0786.

One woman interior painting. Quality work. Reasonable rates. Call 480–2258.

Photography

★ WEDDINGS/BAR MITZVAHS ★
Experienced professional; personal service and reasonable rates. You own and keep the negatives! For information:
Jim Kruz, (734) 668–6988

The Studio of Paul Thacker is Ann Arbor's finest offering in high-end portraiture. Save 10% on holiday gift certificates through December 31.
PAULTHACKER.COM. 734.662.6361

WEDDINGS ★ EVENTS
PORTRAITS ★ BAR MITZVAHS
Classic family portraiture and/or candid storytelling style. Color/b&w. Anne Keesor Photography, (734) 995–9668.

Wanted

Male or female models for Lifecast. Weightlifter build, $50–$75 per hour. (734) 747–6307.

Wanted: 2 Chinese dictionaries based on 2 1 4 radicals. 668–4005.

The Jefferson Street Chorale, a professional vocal ensemble, has openings for basses and tenors. The Chorale sings everything from motets and madrigals to jazz and popular music and is run on a cooperative basis. 761–1584.

JANUARY DEADLINE
DECEMBER 10

Observer Classifieds/Personals Form

Mail, fax, or bring form to: Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Fax: (734) 769-3375, or e-mail: classifieds@arborweb.com
Please include payment of check, cash, Visa or MC.

REACH OVER
124,000 READERS

ANN ARBOR OBSERVER CLASSIFIEDS—

RUN AD IN:

JAN. FEB. MAR.
APR. MAY JUNE
JULY AUG. SEP.
OCT. NOV. DEC.

NUMBER OF LINES _____
X $7.00 PER LINE _____
X # OF MONTHS _____
TOTAL $ _____

CHECK APPROPRIATE CLASSIFIEDS CATEGORY

❑ WANTED ❑ FOR SALE
❑ ENTERTAINMENT
❑ LESSONS & WORKSHOPS
❑ SERVICES– PHOTOGRAPHY
❑ SERVICES– BUSINESS
❑ SERVICES– HOME
❑ SERVICES– HEALTH
❑ SERVICES– GENERAL
❑ EMPLOYMENT

REAL ESTATE GUIDE CLASSIFIEDS—

❑ ANN ARBOR ❑ COMMERCIAL
❑ CONDOS ❑ MOBILE HOMES
❑ OFFICE SPACE ❑ RENTALS
❑ PROPERTY FOR SALE
❑ SUBURBAN/ COUNTRY HOMES
❑ VACATION RENTALS
❑ VACANT LAND
❑ REAL ESTATE WANTED

PERSONALS— (See ad on page 111 for detailed information about responding to a Personals ad.)

All Classified and Personals Ads will automatically appear on our Web page, www.arborweb.com

CHECK APPROPRIATE PERSONALS CATEGORY

❑ Women Seeking Men ❑ Women Seeking Women ❑ Friendships
❑ Men Seeking Women ❑ Men Seeking Men ❑ General Personals

FIRST FOUR LINES **FREE**

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X $7.00 PER LINE _____
TOTAL $ _____

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PHONE _____
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❑ PLEASE CHARGE MY: ❑ VISA ❑ MASTERCARD ❑ CHECK ENCLOSED
ACCOUNT NUMBER _____
EXP. DATE _____
SIGNATURE _____

RATES & GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFIEDS AND PERSONALS

- Each letter, punctuation mark, and word space counts as a box. Capital letters use two boxes.
- Average 36 characters per line.
- Move word to the next line if it does not fit completely at the end of a line.
- Ads will run in the next open issue.

- **For Classifieds Only—**
- $7.00 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion. 2 line minimum.
- Use only standard abbreviations.

- **For Personals Only—**
- All ads are assigned a single number for Personals Call and written responses.
- An instruction sheet for Personals Call will be mailed to the advertiser.
- Written responses will be forwarded to the advertiser up to one year after the ad appears in print.
- Refer to Personals Key for acceptable abbreviations.

- Ads must be in by the deadline, preferably in writing.
- **First four lines are free** in the Personals for singles seeking a relationship, $7.00 each additional line. The following exceptions will be charged **full price** of $7.00 per line:
  - Ads requesting written responses.
  - Businesses and organizations.

| | | |

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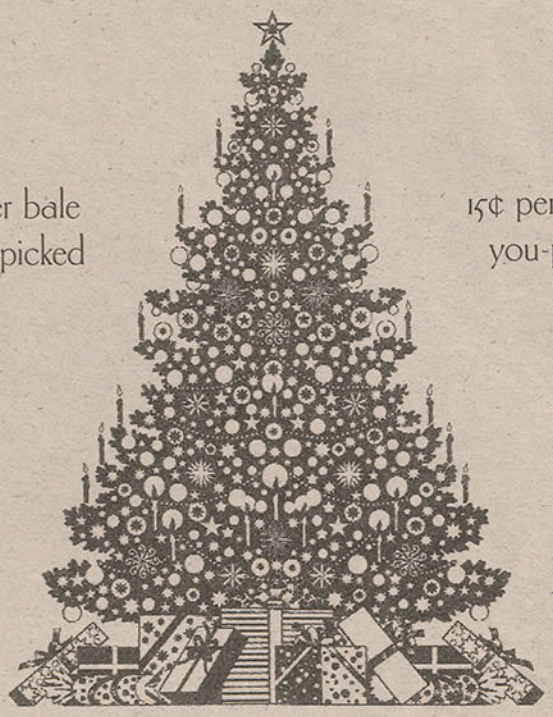

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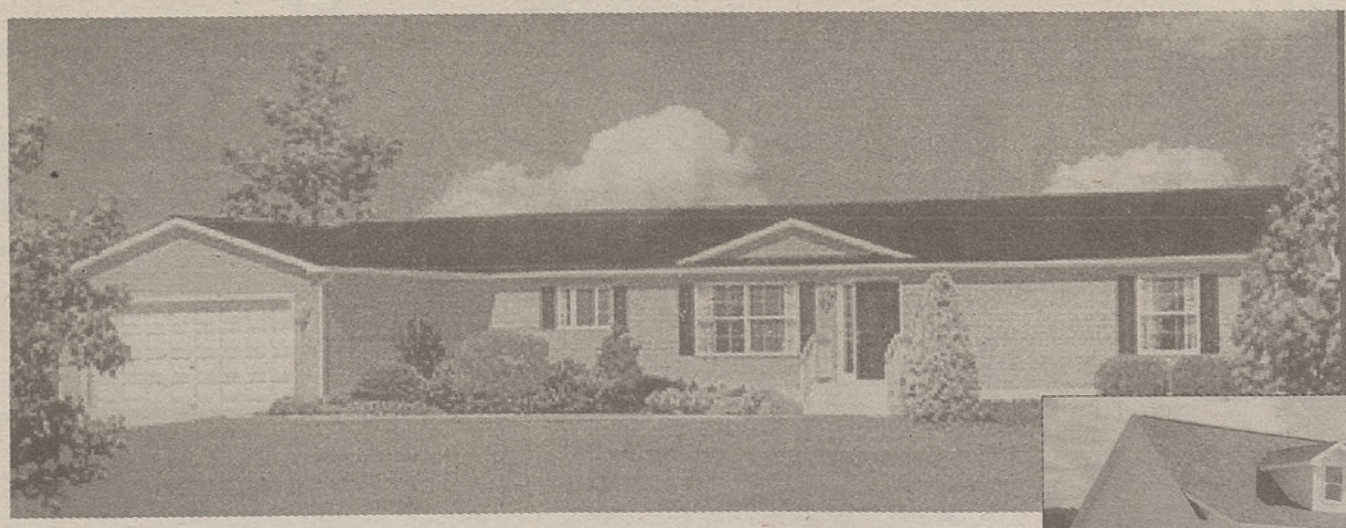
Real Estate
GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

Cover listing by:

KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
ANN ARBOR MARKET CENTER

Ann Arbor Observer December 2001 Volume 9 Number 7



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Real Estate GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

www.arborweb.com

On the Cover: This 2,901-sq.-ft. home in popular Lake Forest is sited on a beautiful half-acre lot backing to the woods and a nature preserve. Its amenities include 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, a first-floor master suite with bath, a 2-story great room, and a spacious look-out basement. A large cedar deck overlooks the professionally landscaped yard. $449,900. Keller Williams Realty/Martin Bouma. (734) 761–9666.
Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

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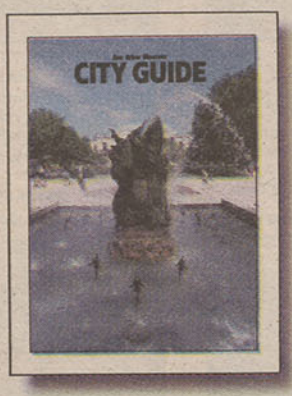

City Guide

Ann Arbor's Almanac, the City Guide provides a wealth of information on housing, neighborhoods, schools and child care, shopping, health care, city government, media, recreation, the arts, community services, and much much more. A valuable resource that's great for newcomers.

Art Fair Guide

This guide provides comprehensive information about Ann Arbor's three major art fairs. It includes extensive artists' lists, detailed street maps of each fair, as well as a guide to food, information, parking, and shuttle services.

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BASE LAKE. 125 ft. lake frontage and 1-acre common area shared by 7 homes. Updated home with 3 bedrooms located across from common area. Great views of lake from screened porch and decks. Andersen wood windows. 1.06 acres. Extra-large storage area, 2½-car garage. $325,000. **TIM HARRISON, (734) 320–2210 or 662–8600 at Real Estate One.** (SU–218508)

CHELSEA small-town charm. Large home for bed and breakfast, offices, or great place to raise your kids! Just off Main Street downtown. Call for information on this grand older home. $279,900. **MARY MURTON, (734) 662–8600 ext. 342 at Real Estate One.** (SO–219036)

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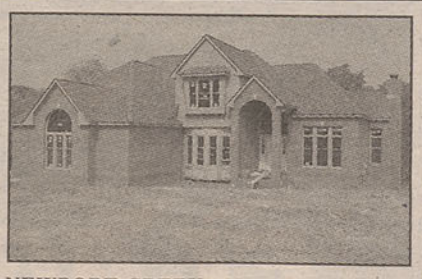

NEWPORT CREEK—New construction in Ann Arbor's premier custom-home community by Harris Homes. Great room, first-floor master suite plan featuring custom kitchen with granite counters, gorgeous lot, and full finished walkout basement. $748,900. **MATT DEJANOVICH, 476–7100 or 662–8600 at Real Estate One.**

BUILT IN 1998 on 13+ acres, wooded, private, 5 bedrooms, 3 marble baths with whirlpool tubs, granite countertops, 2 fireplaces, over 4,300 sq. ft. plus huge finished walkout lower level. All-around brick, 6-car garage. $690,000. **DANIEL MLADIN, 662–8600 at Real Estate One.** (SA–216015)

STONEBRIDGE—Stately 5-bedroom, 4-bath former Showcase home on Boulder Pond in Ann Arbor's premier golf-course community. Home features upgrades galore including oak paneled den, huge deck, custom cherry kitchen, and finished walkout basement. $768,900. **MATT DEJANOVICH, 476–7100 or 662–8600 at Real Estate One.** (BO–216992)

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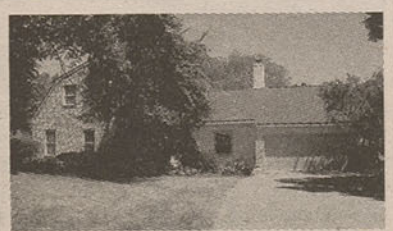
OUTSIDE, THIS VINTAGE-STYLED— but recently built house blends beautifully into it's classic downtown neighborhood. Inside, the three bedroom/bathroom home is a modern creation of light and air, with soaring ceilings, hickory/stainless gourmet kitchen, and much more. Two blocks from Hunt Park, and a short stroll to Kerrytown/Main St. $359,000. **MARY HELEN GILBERT (734)747-6244, www.MaryHelenGilbert.com. (219281)**

GOLFER'S DREAM— 2,481 sq. ft. ranch, only 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, great room with corner gas fireplace, 23 x 13'6 White Bay kitchen, 28 x 16 master suite. On 5th green at Stonebridge. $469,000. **DAVE DEAN (734)302-8821 or (734)216-7780, www.thedeanteam.com. (217904)**



ANN ARBOR HILLS— Traditional 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial with cherry kitchen, Corian counters and hardwood floors, marble surround fireplace, and 1/2 acre mature treed lot. Walk to racquet club. $499,000. **DAVE DEAN (734)302-8821 or (734)216-7780, www.thedeanteam.com. (216883)**

RADRICK MEADOWS—1997 contemporary, 4 bedrooms up, 5th bedroom/study down, 3.5 baths, 3500 sq. ft. on gorgeous treed half acre at end of cul-de-sec by Radrick Farms. $584,500. **Call DAVE DEAN (734)302-8821 or (734)216-7780, www.thedeanteam.com. (218804)**

ELEGANT DESIGN— is found in this magnificent ranch with 4 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths on a cul-de-sac in Stonebridge subdivision. The large kitchen is a recipe for success w/efficient style plus inviting warmth featuring Brookhaven custom cabinetry, center island w/granite countertop, walk-in butler's pantry and quality appliances. $799,000 **THE PEARSALL TEAM (734)302-8827. (212068)**

WONDERFUL 2 BEDROOM CONDO IN TRAVIS POINT— This perfect package with all the extras. Features 2 story living room w/gas fireplace and marble surround, gorgeous kitchen w/ceramic tile counters and large pantry. Also features formal dining room w/marble flooring and doorwall to wood deck. Enjoy gorgeous landscaping w/reflecting pond and fabulous view of pond and golf course! $347,500. **THE PEARSALL TEAM (734)302-8827. (218801)**

BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED & SOPHISTICATED LIVING AREAS— 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home. 2 story great room with fireplace & marble surround. Terrific 2nd level highlighting library/study w/built in shelving & skylights. Exceptional lower level w/daylight window & 1,134 sq. ft. of finished living space including custom maple bar, family & recreation area & full bath. Professional landscape & private deck. $569,900. **THE PEARSALL TEAM (734)302-8827. (218801)**

THIS 4 BEDROOM EUROPEAN CONTEMPORARY HOME— features newly designed kitchen, mahogany floors throughout and 3 fireplaces. Also features 462 sq. ft. bonus room which could be used as a family room, exercise room, recreation room or additional bedroom. The serene and relaxing paver patio has reflecting pond, waterfall and bridge for a tranquil surrounding. $489,900. **THE PEARSALL TEAM (734)302-8827. (215126)**

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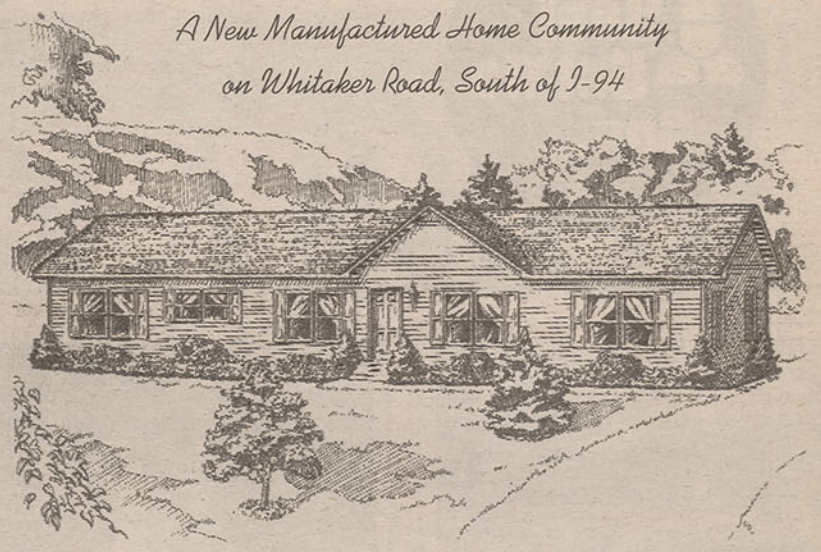

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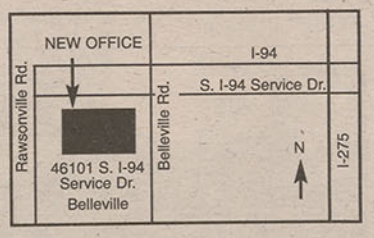

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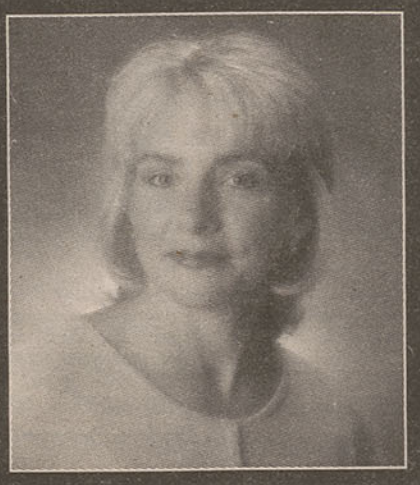

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ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN. 540 sq. ft. of basement or 1,600 sq. ft. of cold storage. Available immediately. Bob, (734) 665–6173.

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KERRYTOWN PARKING. Five spaces available. Private, secured lot. $120/mo. (734) 668–1640.

Condominiums

TURNBERRY VILLAGE. Three years old, 1,142-sq.-ft., full basement, 2 bedrooms, 1½ baths, with deck, attached garage. $165,000. 975–1914.

BROOKSIDE COMMONS! This townhouse-style condo has convenient central Ann Arbor location. The 1,730-sq.-ft. unit has beautiful views of the pond. Two bedrooms, 2½ baths, 2½-car garage, first-floor laundry. Full walkout basement opens to the private patio. $229,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 372.**

OAK MEADOWS CONDO. Attractive 2,034-sq.-ft. unit with 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. First-floor master suite plus master bath with Jacuzzi tub. Great room with cozy fireplace. Light oak kitchen with breakfast nook and pantry. Full professionally finished basement. $254,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 295.**

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION. Sharp, townhouse-style courtyard model located in Geddes Lake co-op. 1,230-sq.-ft. unit with 2 large bedrooms, 1½ baths, 1-car garage. Convenient second-floor laundry. Enjoy the private, fenced patio. Newer furnace and central air. $102,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 310.**

ARLINGTON PLACE CONDO. Desirable end unit with great central Ann Arbor location. This 1,200-sq.-ft. unit has a very spacious, open floor plan with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, and 1-car attached garage. Kitchen has large pantry. Private deck overlooks Mallet's Creek and the woods beyond. 1 car attached garage. $150,000. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 897.**

PRICE REDUCTION. Beautiful 2-story townhouse-style condo located in Alpine condos, overlooking Georgetown golf course. This 1,280-sq.-ft. unit has 3 bedrooms and 2½ baths. Spacious, eat-in kitchen. Private fenced-in patio is accessible from sunny living room through French doors. Newer furnace and hot-water tank. $164,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 200.**

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION. Well-maintained ranch-style condo in the beautiful established setting of Walden Village condos. Two bedrooms and 2 full baths. This southern-facing end unit features a very open floor plan including a full basement with daylight windows and a 2-car garage. $165,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 039.**

EAGLE RIDGE CONDO. Four months old, townhouse-style end unit overlooking a natural pond. This 1,340-sq.-ft. unit has 2 large bedrooms and 2½ baths plus loft/study area. Kitchen has a convenient breakfast bar and walk-in pantry. Deck with brick-paver patio, 2-car attached garage. $192,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 540.**

HEATHERWOOD CONDO. This first-floor unit has 1,212 sq. ft. of living space with 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. French doors lead to the southern-facing private deck, overlooking the expansive common area. Study off of the living room could potentially be a home office or third bedroom. One-car garage. $162,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 882.**

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION. Totally private contemporary condo, tucked away in the woods of Superior Twp. This 3,300-sq.-ft. unit has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths plus a 2-story solarium filled with lush tropical foliage. Handcrafted details throughout including stained glass, oak work, redwood trim, and much more. $319,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 601.**

Ann Arbor

HOLLYWOOD SUB. Walk to Abbot Elementary from this brick ranch located on a private, treed lot in a cul-de-sac. This 1,050-sq.-ft. home has 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Partially finished basement has a rec room with brick fireplace, workshop, and a pool table. Hardwood floors in 2 bedrooms. $174,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 860.**

QUALITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP. New home, complete with gourmet kitchen, spacious master suite, 2-story family room, daylight basement, and wonderful views. $535,000. **ROGER HIGGINS, 473–0998 or (734) 662–8600 at Real Estate One.** (CE–210858)

POPULAR LAKE FOREST. Beautiful half-acre lot backing to the woods and nature preserve. This 2,901-sq.-ft. home has 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths. Large first-floor master-bedroom suite with master bath. Two-story great room. 1,813-sq.-ft. lookout basement. Large cedar deck overlooking professionally landscaped yard. $449,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 906.**

OLD WEST SIDE—Historic homes on shady lots, near downtown attractions and U-M. Free computerized list of homes for sale in one of Ann Arbor's most popular areas. (800) 303–3064 ID #3015. **Edward Surovell Realtors, 761–6600.**

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VICTORIA COMMONS. Pristine 2-story home located in wonderful neighborhood with playground, pool, ponds, and walking trails. 1,871 sq. ft. of living space with 4 bedrooms and 2½ baths. Very open floor plan including formal living and dining rooms. Hardwood floors. Full professionally finished basement. $204,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 087**

POLO FIELDS. Located on the second tee, this stunning home has breathtaking views of the golf course and pond. Over 3,500 sq. ft. of living space including 4 bedrooms, 3½ baths, plus a first-floor study. Professionally finished basement has daylight windows, a full bath, a bedroom, and a rec room. Large deck with hot tub. $498,500. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 358.**

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION! Perfect location in Burns Park, surrounded by shade trees on a quiet, low-traffic street. Three bedrooms, 1½ baths. Sunny formal dining room. Fully remodeled kitchen has oak cabinets. Full finished basement with knotty pine paneling, a second kitchen, and a half bath. $279,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 143.**

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION! Located in the prestigious Glades of Scio Twp. on 1+ acre. 4,200 sq. ft. of living space including handicapped-accessible first-floor nanny quarters, 6 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 studies, and professionally finished basement plus so much more. Wonderful built-in cabinets and shelves in family and living rooms. $539,900. **MARTIN BOUMA, (888) 211–2933 at Keller Williams Realty. Ext. 493.**

BEAUTIFUL private Barton Hills 1922 stucco Tudor with spacious open floor plan, master bedroom with sitting room, and porch and deck with views of woods and gardens. Also, third-floor bedroom, study, and bath; 4–5 bedrooms, 5 baths, greenhouse, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen, custom cabinets. $995,000. **NANCY HARRISON, (734) 320–2211 or 662–8600 at Real Estate One.** (OA–217327)

FANTASTIC RANCH with walkout near King School. Built by Harry Landau. Attached 3-car garage, 3 bedrooms, 3½ baths, family room, and study. Large kitchen with eating space that leads to screened-in porch and deck. 3,177 sq. ft. $426,000. **TIM HARRISON, (734) 320–2210 or 662–8600 at Real Estate One.** (TR–218532)

BURNS PARK bungalow charmer. Beautiful wood trim and floors throughout. Freshly painted out! Swing on the screened porch or grill on the private back deck. New roof, updated bath. Awesome family room with sky windows. $259,000. **AMY GRIFFITH, 741–88520 or 662–8600 at Real Estate One.** (MO–219014)

ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF WOODS and total privacy along the Huron River on approximately 4.59 acres. Custom-built salt box with wonderful features, 3–4 bedrooms, oversize 2½-car garage, full basement, separate building with large office and storage. $379,000. **NANCY HARRISON, (734) 320–2211 or 662–8600 at Real Estate One.** (HU–216584)

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Property for Sale

RARE SITE, Saline Twp. $169,000, 2.9 acres. Views, wooded ravine, meadow, walkout potential. 429–7045.

Suburban Areas & Country Homes

BY OWNER—Lodi $269,000, 6321 Hereford. Great home, wonderful private acre lot, finished basement, detached workshop. 429–7045.

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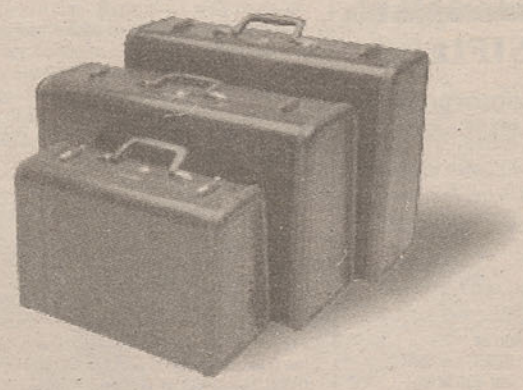

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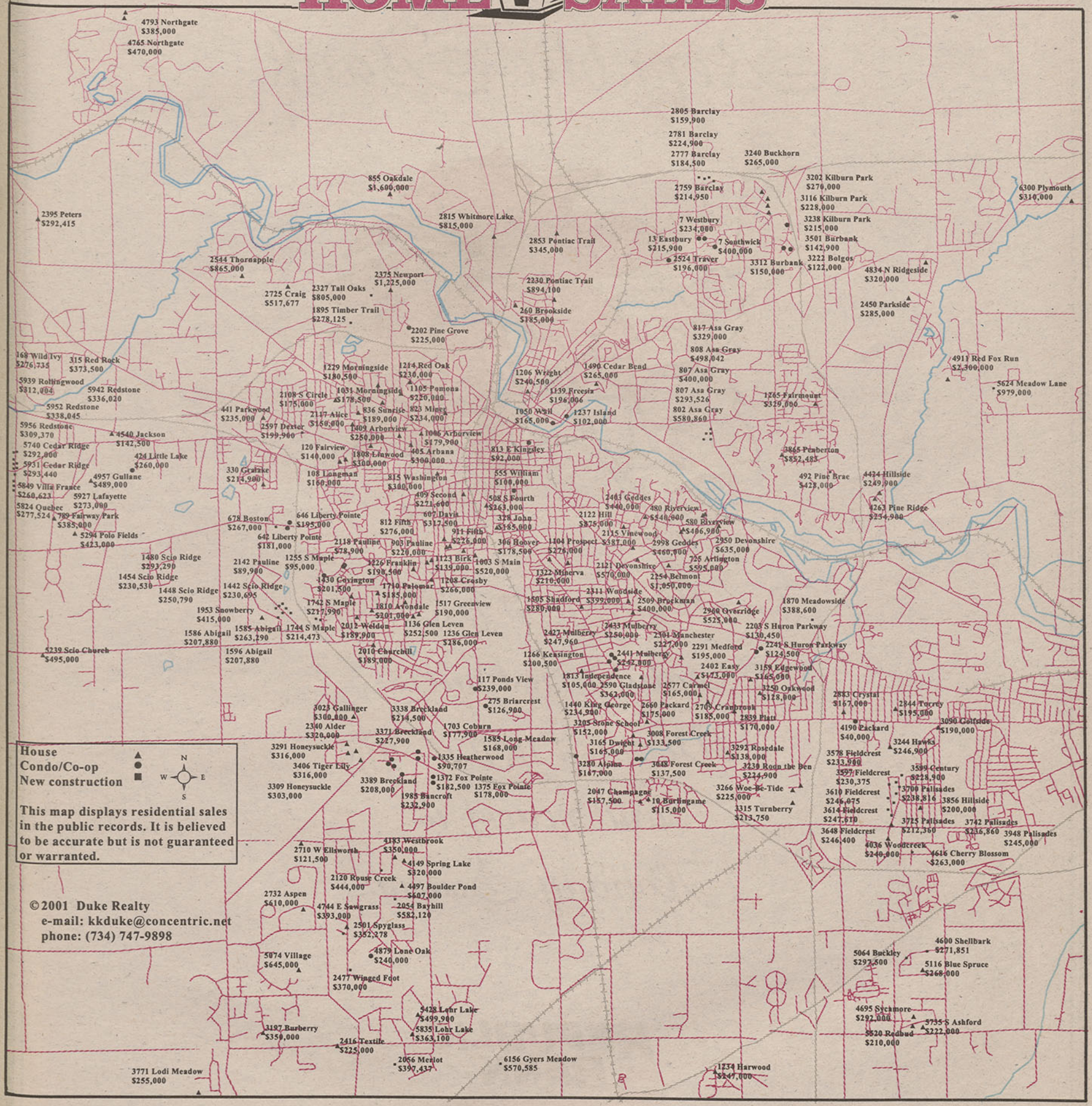
OCTOBER 2001

HOME SALES



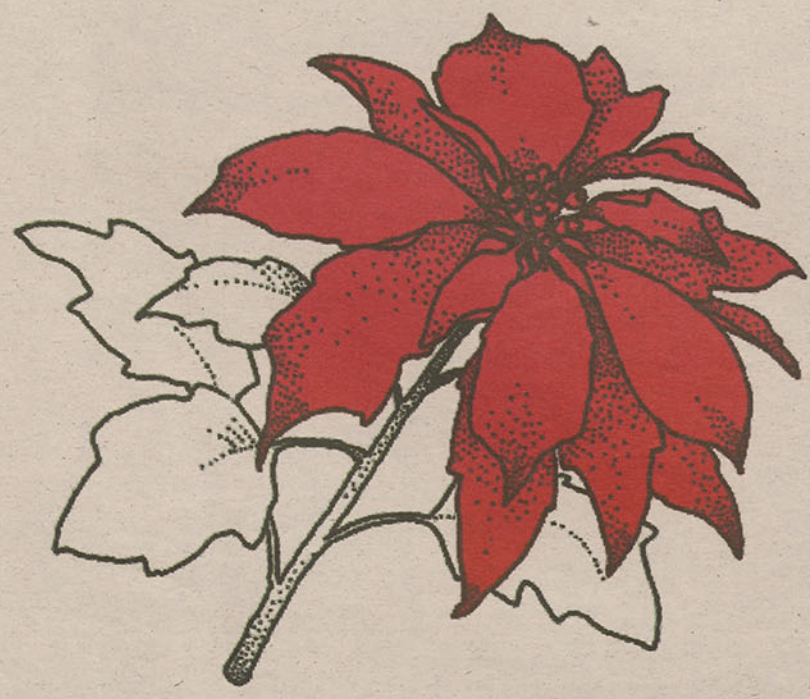
The 228 home sales on this month's map include fifty-four new homes—and four homes that sold for more than $1 million. An Ann Arbor Township home at 4911 Red Fox Run in Matthaei Farms sold for $2.3 million and seems destined to rank as the year's most expensive residential sale. The house provides nearly 10,000 square feet of living space and enjoys a front-row seat by one dandy little swimming hole. Other million-dollar houses can be found in Barton Hills, in Ann Arbor Hills, and on Newport Road.

Four also-rans sold for more than $800,000. Two of them border Barton Hills, one is in Ann Arbor Hills, and the last is just across Gale Road from Red Fox Run, in Superior Township. The high end of the market in the Ann Arbor area is indeed going higher, at least in sheer numbers. Counting both resales of existing homes and new construction, we found 285 homes that have sold for more than $400,000 so far this year, compared to 269 in all of 2000.

One high-end sale we hesitate to count is not exactly a residential property, although there are two homes on the six-acre site. For $894,100, the Rudolf Steiner School bought the Moehrle property at 2230 Pontiac Trail for its high school. One residence will be occupied by the caretakers, says administrator Sara Lambert, and the other will be used by administrators of the high school. But the focus will be on converting the 15,000 square feet of commercial space to a high school in time for the next school year. One big plus makes this a dream location for any school: it backs up to Black Pond Woods and the Leslie Science Center.

—Kevin Duke

Republic Bank



To all our good friends and valued customers, We wish you a safe and peaceful Holiday Season.

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REAL ESTATE UPDATE

The condo market

Big business in small packages

Condominiums are a very popular housing alternative in the Ann Arbor area: between January and October of this year, one out of four home buyers opted to purchase a condominium or its kissing cousin, a co-op. And even this impressive ratio, based on sales within an area approximating the Ann Arbor school district, dramatically understates condos' popularity in the city of Ann Arbor. If you count both new construction and resales of existing homes, co-ops and condos account for one out of every three sales in the city this year.

If you count both new construction and resales of existing homes, co-ops and condos account for one out of every three sales in the city this year.

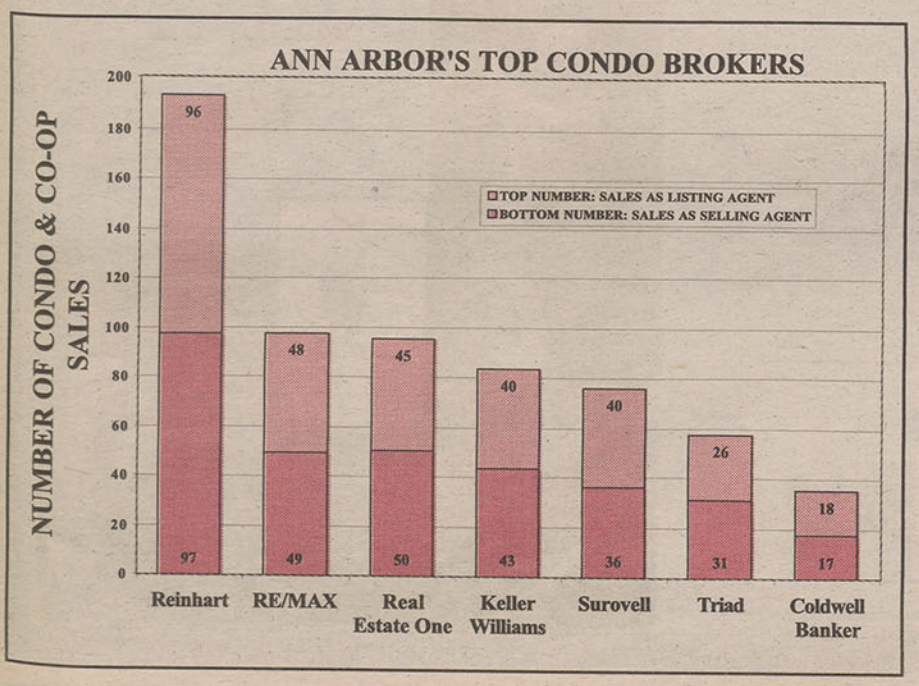
Condo prices ranged widely among the 617 sales we tracked down—from $32,500, for the most modest Arbor Meadows condo on Packard in Pittsfield, up to $667,017, for the most spacious villa in the new University Commons on Huron Parkway. And condos keep coming: 124 of this year's sales were freshly minted condominiums.

Realtors handled two out of every three condominium sales. The units they sold went for an average (mean) price of $164,000. (The median price—half cost more, half less—was $157,000.) The Realtors' 396 sales amounted to $65 million for the condos' sellers and earned them roughly $3.9 million in commissions, if we assume the commission rate averaged 6 percent. The accompanying chart, based on brokers' own reports to the Ann Arbor Board of Realtors Multiple Listing Service (MLS), illustrates which are the biggest players in condo sales. The chart shows the area's top seven condo brokers, ranked by the number of sales reported to MLS in the first ten months of the year. Collectively they handled 80 percent of the sales in which a broker was involved.

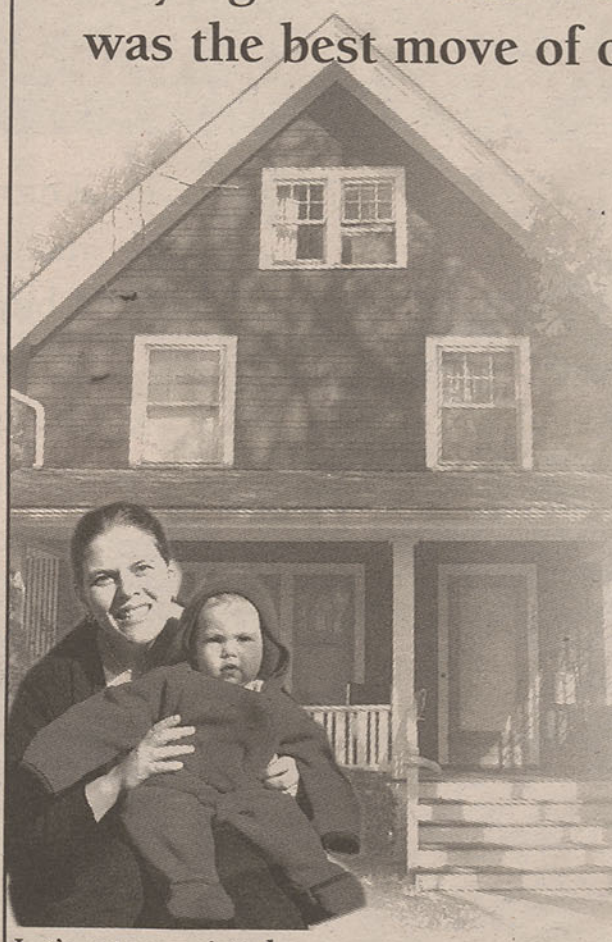
The Charles Reinhart Company dwarfed the competition in this class, selling twice as many condos as its closest competitor. Reinhart's agents scored 193 "sales," if we follow the industry practice of giving separate credit to the listing and selling agents involved in each transaction. (Since it's rare for a single agent to both list and sell a unit, the totals shown on the chart add up to almost double the actual number of units sold.) If Reinhart earned an average 3 percent commission from each sale, it should have posted roughly $1.2 million to its corporate books before splitting the commissions with its agents.

Reinhart agents tasted a sweeter slice of the market than many other agents did: not only did they sell more condos than other firms, but the condos they sold were also more expensive. Reinhart's listings sold for an average of $174,000, more than double the $84,000 average price of units sold by Triad. Triad's low average price reflects its specialty: co-op sales in Geddes Lake and the Village, which offer some of the least expensive owner-occupied housing in the city. Two-bedroom co-ops in the Village sell for an average of $71,000, for example, while one-bedroom units average just $57,000. Triad shows up on the chart with only fifty-seven transactions, but in the small pond of co-op sales, it's a very big fish.

—Kevin Duke



"Buying on the Old West Side was the best move of our lives."



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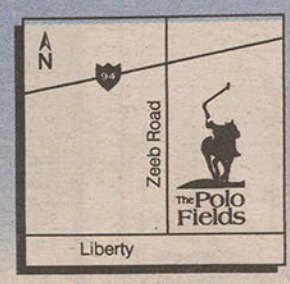

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from all of us at the

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BACK PAGE

I SPY

by Sally Bjork

Preparing today
For changes in May.

They'll add on
—Hall by Kahn—

And renovate
Its present state.

To enter this month's contest, use the riddle above and the photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

The Glazier Building, present home of Key Bank at the corner of Huron and Main downtown, was built in 1906–1908 by Frank Porter Glazier.

Entrant Jennifer Root asked, "Wasn't he jailed for embezzlement?" Glazier was indeed convicted in 1910 of embezzling state funds, some of which went into the construction of the Glazier Building. In addition to being state treasurer, Glazier was founder of one of the forerunners of today's *Ann Arbor News*. He was also owner of Chelsea Savings Bank and a manufacturer of iron stoves in Chelsea.

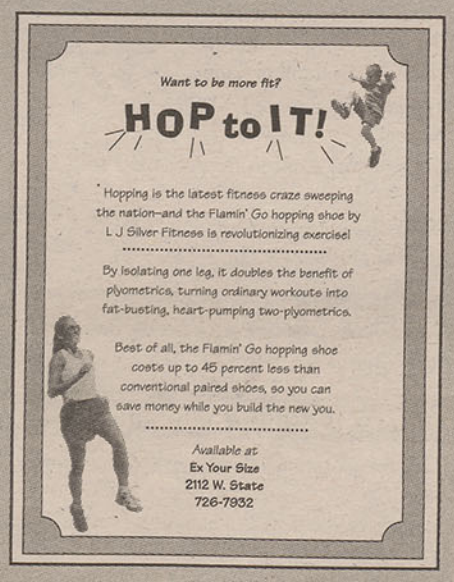
We received five entries, all correctly identifying November's I Spy. The winner of our random drawing, Ginny Archer of Ann Arbor, volunteered that "the builder, erstwhile stove magnate Glazier, was a colorful character whose life is chronicled in Louis Doll's book *Less than Immortal: The Rise and Fall of Frank Porter Glazier of Chelsea, Michigan.*" Archer will receive a copy of the latest edition of *Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor, Michigan*, by Marjorie Reade and Susan Wineberg.

FAKE AD

by Jay Forstner

Normally, we have to write these updates ourselves. We have to say what the Fake Ad was, on what page it appeared, and where the magic word, *arborweb,* was hidden. This month we're going to let Ann Arbor's Julie Mach do all that for us.

"I think the Fake Ad in November's Observer is on page 92—the ad for the Flamin' Go (hmmm . . . flamingo?) hopping shoe. Between that name of the shoe, L J Silver Fitness ('L J' for 'Long John,' right?), the 'two-plyometrics,' and the 'Ex Your Size' store, the ad seemed pretty suspect. And unless I'm looking way too deep into this, the phone number spells out 'RBORWEB.'"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Well said. All that's left for us to announce is that we received 113 correct entries in November and that Jonathan Manheim's was drawn as our winner. Jonathan's taking his gift certificate to Seva restaurant.

To enter the contest for December, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. The winner will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–4950. *E-mail:* penny@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Monday, December 10, are eligible for the December drawings.

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Boychoir of Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor Youth Chorale

This month's innumerable holiday events include the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' spectacular annual creche display (November 30–December 3), featuring this new Native American–themed Nativity scene. Also, holiday concerts by the Boychoir of Ann Arbor (December 15 and 16) and by the Ann Arbor Youth Chorale (December 8), plus numerous bazaars for Hanukkah (December 2) and Christmas (December 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 15).

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 75 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 75.

Classical & Religious Music

- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 1
- University Choral Union's *Messiah,* Dec. 1 & 2
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 2
- U-M Marching Band, Dec. 2
- Pianist Waleed Howrani, Dec. 2
- U-M Michigan Pops Orchestra, Dec. 2
- Trio Miro/Duo, Dec. 4
- Our Own Thing Chorale gospel choir, Dec. 4
- Kirov Orchestra, Dec. 5
- Violist Christine Russell & pianist Ksenia Nosikova, Dec. 6
- U-M Women's Glee Club, Dec. 8
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 8
- U-M Men's Glee Club Friars, Dec. 8
- Les Arts Florissants baroque choir, Dec. 13
- Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, Dec. 14
- Vox early-music choir, Dec. 14
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 15 & 16
- Measure for Measure men's chorus, Dec. 15
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 16

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Janeane Garofalo, Dec. 1
- Comic Darwin Hines, Dec. 1
- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Dec. 4 & 18
- Comic Elliott Branch, Dec. 6–8
- Volume Poetry Project Poetry Night, Dec. 7
- Comic Jackie Flynn, Dec. 13–15
- Comic Monica Carter, Dec. 20–22
- Comic Kevin McPeek, Dec. 27–29
- Comic Tim Walkoe, Dec. 31

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Billy Bang & Kahil El' Zabar and John Butcher & Gerry Hemingway (jazz), Dec. 1
- Laurie Lewis (country), Dec. 4
- Over the Rhine (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 5
- Dixie Power Trio (jazz), Dec. 6
- Bob Margolin (blues), Dec. 6
- 58 Greene (a cappella), Dec. 7
- Barrage (worldbeat), Dec. 7
- Special Consensus (bluegrass), Dec. 7 & 8
- Joey DeFrancesco (jazz), Dec. 7
- Danzon by Six (jazz), Dec. 7 & 8
- Amazin' Blue (a cappella), Dec. 8
- The Blue Mockingbirds, Mercy Side, & Jesus Jones (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 8
- Kitty Donohoe & Jan Krist (singer-songwriters), Dec. 11
- John Berry (country), Dec. 12
- Drums and Tuba (jam-rock), Dec. 12
- Alvin "Youngblood" Hart (blues), Dec. 13
- Carrie Newcomer (singer-songwriter), Dec. 14
- Bobby Broom (jazz), Dec. 14 & 15
- Uncle Bonsai (pop-folk), Dec. 31

Family & Kids' Stuff

- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing Along with Santa" family concert, Dec. 8
- Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 9
- *Goodnight Opus* (The Mermaid Theater Company), Dec. 9
- *The Changeling* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 11–16
- *The Wind in the Willows* (Young Actor's Guild), Dec. 14–16

Conferences & Forums

- U-M Wiesner Symposium on the "Benefits and Challenges of Genetic Knowledge," Dec. 7 & 8

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- John McCutcheon (folk), Dec. 1
- Herdman, Hills, & Mangsen (folk), Dec. 8
- Joel Mabus (folk), Dec. 15
- Crossroads Ceili (Celtic), Dec. 29 & 30

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Domino's Farms St. Nicholas Light Display, nightly
- Holiday bazaars & fairs, Dec. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, & 15
- Chelsea Festival of Lights, Dec. 1 & 2
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 1–3
- Dexter Victorian Christmas, Dec. 1 & 8
- Waterloo Farm Museum "Christmas Past," Dec. 1 & 2
- Jewish Book Fair, Dec. 1 & 2
- Concordia College Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 1 & 2
- "Holiday Evening in Saline," Dec. 7 & 8
- Main Street "Festive Friday Holiday Nights," Dec. 7, 14, & 21
- "Community Concert for Peace and Justice," Dec. 8
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 9
- Ypsilanti New Year Jubilee, Dec. 31

Lectures & Readings

- Poet Grace Paley, Dec. 4

Garrison Keillor Miscellany

- Live broadcast of *Prairie Home Companion,* Dec. 15
- Garrison Keillor hosts readings by local poets, Dec. 15
- Garrison Keillor reads from *Lake Wobegon Summer 1956,* Dec. 16

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- Ypsilanti Area Dancers, Dec. 1 & 2
- *Hits and Mis-Demeanors* (Young Actor's Guild), Dec. 1
- *Guys on Ice* (Purple Rose Theater), Dec. 1, 2, 5–9, 12–16, & 19–22
- *Buried Child* (U-M Residential College Players), Dec. 1
- *R.U.R.* (U-M Residential College Players), Dec. 1 & 2
- *The Odd Couple* (MorrisCo Art Theater), Dec. 1 & 2
- *The Glass Menagerie* (EMU Theater Department), Dec. 1, 2, & 6–8
- *Stop Kiss* (Performance Network), Dec. 1, 2, 6–9, 13–16, & 20–23
- Monologist Spalding Gray's *Interviewing the Audience,* Dec. 6
- *The Grand Duke* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 6–9
- *Internal Affairs* (Phoenix Productions), Dec. 6–9 & 13–16
- *Julius Caesar* (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 6–9
- *The Grapes of Wrath* (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 6–9
- *Angels in America* (U-M Residential College), Dec. 7–9
- *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (First Congregational Church), Dec. 8 & 9
- *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Arbor Opera Theater), Dec. 8, 14, & 15
- Bert Hornback reads *A Christmas Carol,* Dec. 11
- *The Great Russian Nutcracker* (Moscow Ballet), Dec. 11–13
- *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (First Presbyterian Church), Dec. 14 & 15
- *Hello, Dolly* (Young People's Theater), Dec. 14, 15, & 20–22
- *The Virtuous Burglar* (Community High School), Dec. 18–20
- *Nutcracker Ballet* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 21–23

"Only in Ann Arbor (Research Capital of the Midwest)" Event of the Month

- Genealogical Society talk on "Holding Their Feet to the Fire: Extracting Information from Relatives," Dec. 2

2001/2002 Season

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December Events

Handel's *Messiah*

UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Thomas Sheets conductor

SAT 12/1 8 PM
SUN 12/2 2 PM
Hill Auditorium

Ring in the sounds of the Christmas season with the UMS Choral Union and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra performing Handel's beloved oratorio, *Messiah*. This annual tradition marks the official start of the holiday season. Join us for a spirited "Hallelujah!"

Presented with the generous support of **Carl and Isabelle Brauer.**

Kirov Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre

Valery Gergiev conductor
Alexander Toradze piano

WED 12/5 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

"For the connoisseur of orchestral playing, this was an unforgettable experience." (*Glasgow Herald*) For this concert, the Kirov Orchestra is joined by Alexander Toradze, internationally recognized as a masterful keyboard virtuoso.

PROGRAM

Debussy	La Mer
Prokofiev	Piano Concerto No. 2 in g minor
Tchaikovsky	Symphony No. 5 in e minor, Op. 64

Presented with support from **Walid.**

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Les Arts Florissants

performing
Christmas Music of
Marc-Antoine Charpentier

THU 12/13 8 PM
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Don't miss this spectacular performance of two Christmas masterpieces by 17th-century composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier. Charpentier's most popular work, the grand Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve, is given special treatment in the beautiful acoustics of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

PROGRAM

Charpentier	Messe de Minuit pour Noel, H. 9 (Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve)
Charpentier	In nativitatem Domini Canticum, H. 416

Presented with the generous support of **Robert and Pearson Macek.**

Educational Events

Kirov Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre

Brown Bag Lecture: "Kirov Conversations: Jewel of St. Petersburg Culture" with U-M School of Music Associate Professor, Beth Genne. *Wednesday, December 5, 12 noon. International Institute, Room 1636 (1080 S. University).*

History of American Art Song

Lecture 4: "Copland and Rorem" by Ann Arbor District Library Music Specialist Richard LeSueur. *Sunday, December 16, 3 pm. Ann Arbor District Library (343 S. Fifth Ave.)*

A great gift idea!

Purchase tickets to a UMS event for your friends, family and co-workers. Gift certificates are also available.

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